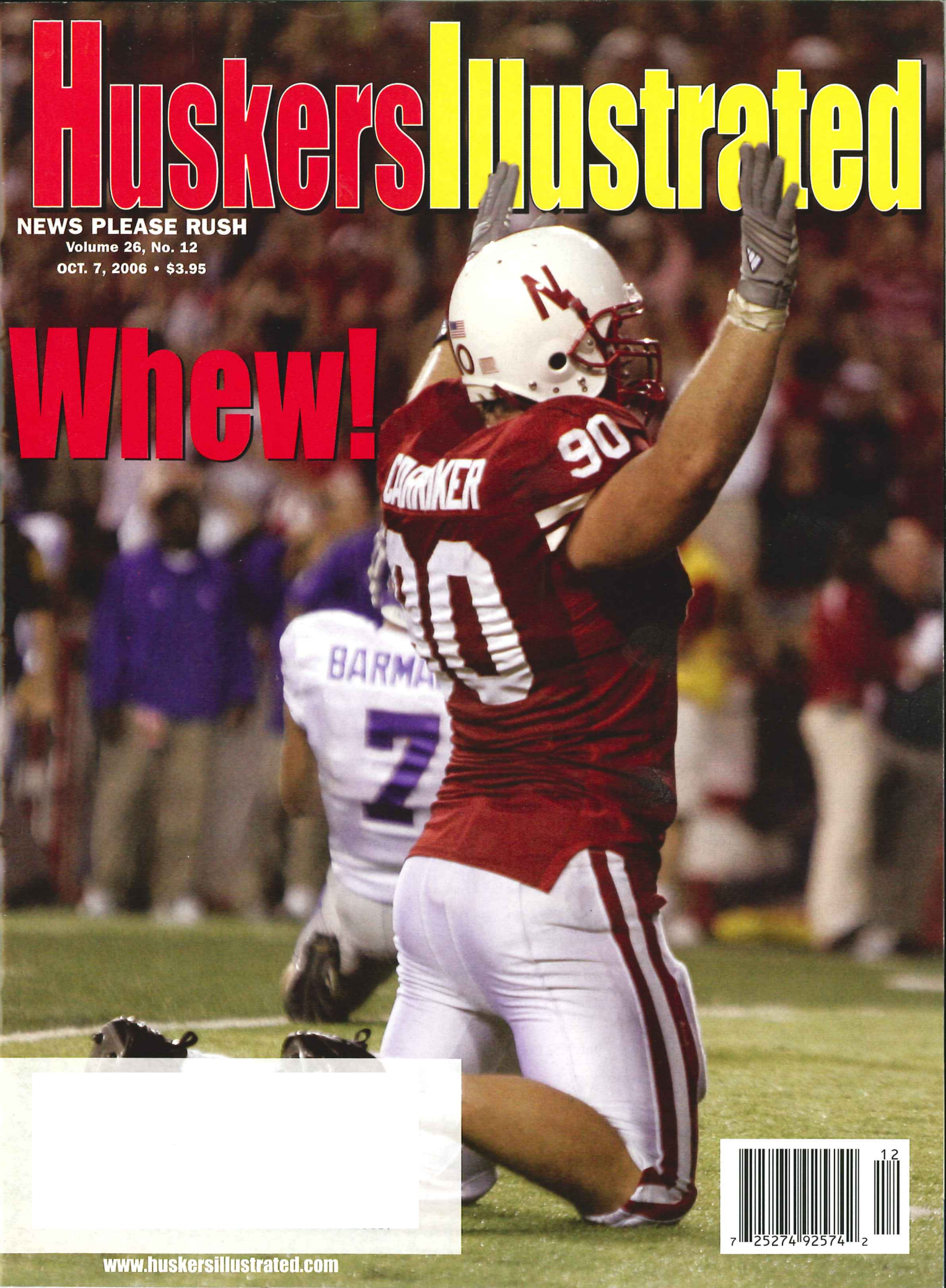
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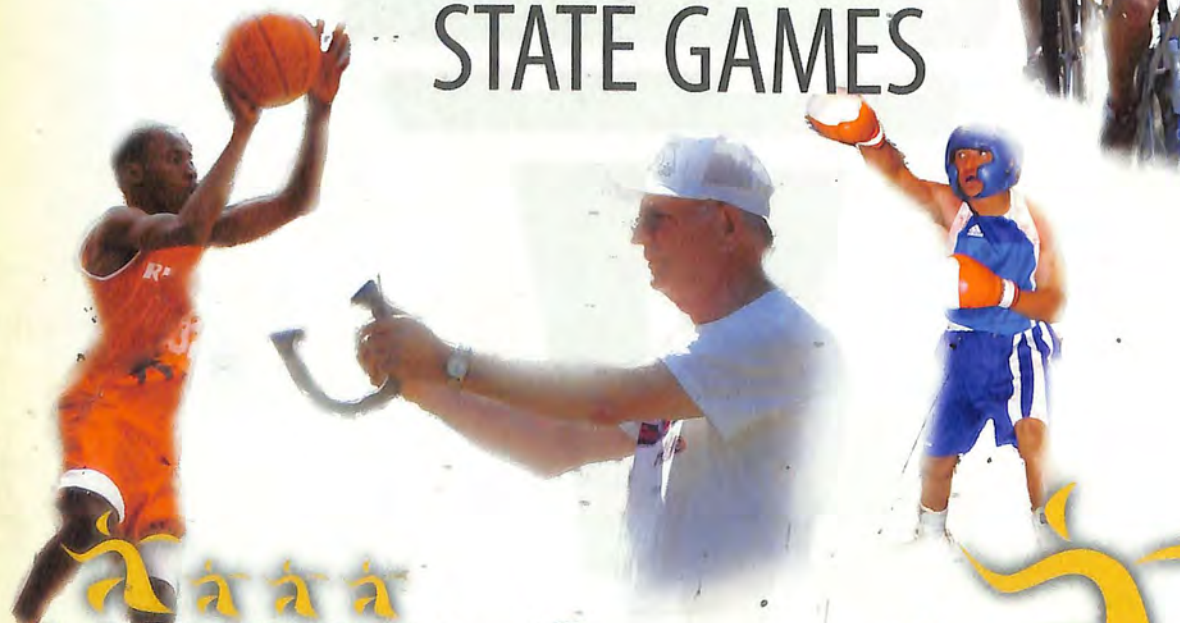
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FROM THE EDITOR

No Early Exits

Huskers dominate in first quarter, but Jayhaws make it a wild finish

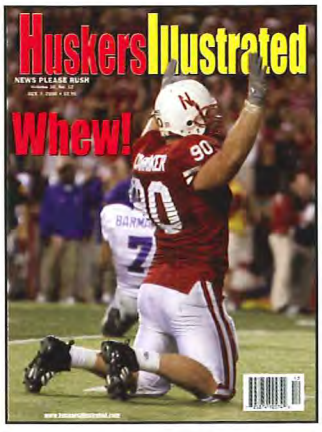


Brian HILL

AS NEBRASKA scored its second easy touchdown in the first five minutes, one member of the Kansas media contingent turned to another and asked, "Are you ready to go?"

There were probably many people in the Memorial Stadium crowd of 85,069 planning on an early, exit as the Huskers amassed 205 yards (to 16 for the Jayhawks) in building a 17-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Maybe it was the ease in which Nebraska scored its first two touchdowns — a total of three plays. Maybe it was the fact that Kansas was a lot better than it showed early on. Or maybe it was the three turnovers NU had in the second and third quarters that turned what looked like a romp into one of the craziest games in Lincoln in recent history.



Instead of leaving early, the crowd was glued to its seats for all four quarters plus overtime, before Nebraska escaped with a 39-32 victory on a beautiful Saturday night.

"I think we took ourselves out of rhythm in the second half," Nebraska coach Bill Callahan said. "I felt that we had some turnovers that allowed Kansas to get right back in it . . . It became a dogfight. You'll get into those types of situations in conference competition. That's the nature of the North Division."

You can read more about the wild and wacky Big 12 Conference opener in this edition of Huskers Illustrated. Our "Recruiting Through the Years" series continues with a look at the 1972 recruiting class, center Brett Byford is featured in "Spotlight," and tight end Hunter Teafatiller answers "10 Questions."

Nebraska improved to 5-0 in overtime games since the format was adopted and has scored on all six of its overtime possessions. This time, Nate Swift's leaping catch just short of the goal line set the stage for Cody Glenn's 1-yard run that proved to be the winning margin. A tired defense would then stop KU on downs at the NU 9 to preserve the victory.

Nebraska's defense allowed 574 yards of total offense, which ranks sixth all-time against a Husker defense. The 94 plays KU ran were the most ever by an opponent, topping the 92 plays that Oklahoma ran against Nebraska in 1948. KU's 405 passing yards ranked sixth all-time for an opponent, and the 32 points marked its highest total in Memorial Stadium and most in Lincoln since scoring 36 points in 1899. Kansas had been held to single digits in four of its last five appearances in Lincoln.

The NU defense will no doubt be working overtime in preparation for the second conference opponent — Iowa State, which had to rally from deficits of 21-7 and 27-21 to overcome two late fumbles and survive a major scare from Northern Iowa, the Division I-AA national runner-up last year.

But in the 28-27 win, junior quarterback Bret Meyer completed 24 of 29 passes for 323 yards. He threw for 317 yards against the Huskers last season in Lincoln. Nebraska won 27-20 but needed two overtimes.

A fast start in Ames obviously wouldn't be a bad idea. ■

ON THE COVER

Nebraska's Adam Carriker (90) reacts as the pass from Kansas quarterback Adam Barmann (7, background) falls incomplete on the final play of overtime, preserving a 39-32 NU victory in the Big 12 Conference opener. *Cover photo by Scott Bruhn.*

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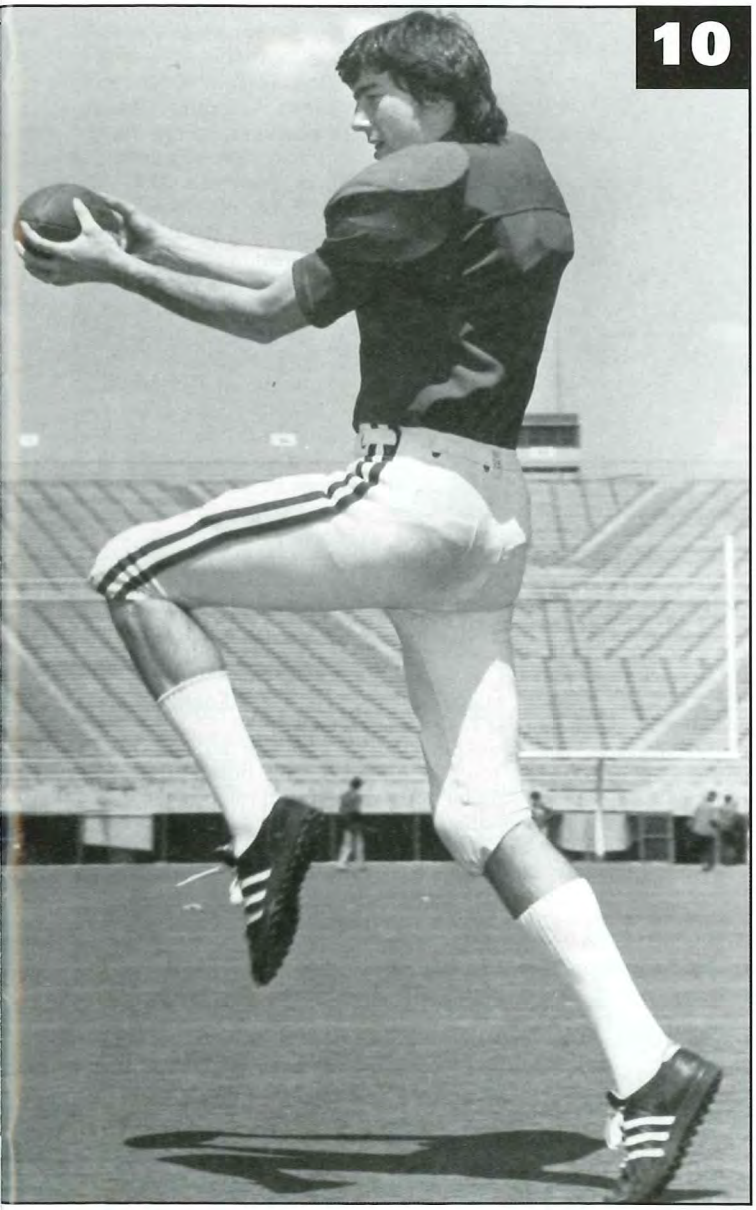
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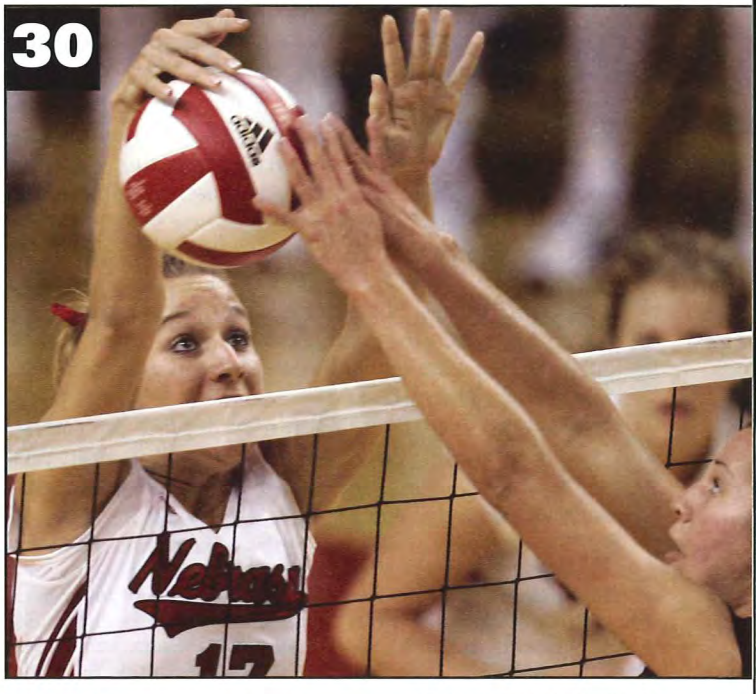
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10 RECRUITING THROUGH THE YEARS

Nebraska's interest in Dave Shamblin (above) began with another football player at Bonita High School in La Verne, Calif. Shamblin was among 38 scholarship freshmen in NU's 1972 recruiting class. *By Mike Babcock*

NEXT ISSUE

The Iowa State review/Kansas State preview edition will be mailed Oct. 9. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

Most Experienced

The Nebraska baseball team began fall practice on Sept. 19, with 22 lettermen from a team that finished 42-17 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the seventh time in the past eight seasons. The 22 fall practices will conclude with the Red-White series, set for Oct. 11-13.

The team is coach Mike Anderson's most experienced, with three of the top four starting pitchers and six position players from last season returning, led by All-America shortstop Ryan Wehrle.



Scott Bruhn

All-America shortstop Ryan Wehrle hit .367 with eight home runs and 48 RBIs as a sophomore.

Wehrle was selected by the Cincinnati Reds in the 18th round of the June draft, after hitting .367 with eight home runs, 22 doubles and 48 runs-batted-in. The junior from Papillion, Neb., also was among four position players who earned all-conference recognition. The others are utility player Andrew Brown, designated hitter-outfielder Andy Gerch and second baseman Jake Opitz.

Third baseman Jake Mort and center fielder Bryce Nimmo also return.

The pitching staff includes left-hander Tony Watson and right-handers Johnny Dorn and Charlie Shirek, starters, and the top set-up men: right-hander Erik Bird and left-hander Zach Herr.

Watson, who also earned All-America recognition, was 10-2 with a 2.78 earned-run average. The Baltimore Orioles drafted him in the 17th round, but he elected to return for his junior season and spent the summer pitching in the Cape Cod League, where he was rated the No. 13 overall prospect for the 2007 draft. Dorn, a two-time All-Big 12 selection, was 9-4 with a 3.89 ERA in 2006.

Watson, Dorn and Shirek would be limited during the fall, according to Anderson, because they are "known quantities" and had thrown enough innings during the season and in the summer.

Among the players Anderson must replace are catcher and two-year starter Jeff Christy, a sixth-round draft pick of the Minnesota Twins, and first-team all-conference first baseman Brandon Buckman.

Fall Roster

Right-handed pitchers: Erik Bird, So.; Joe Broekemeier, Fr.; Johnny Dorn, Jr.; Matt Foust, Jr.; Mike Harmelink, Sr.; Mike Nesseth, Fr.; Mike Nihsen, Fr.; Tim Radmacher, So.; Drew Schwab, So.; Sam Sharpe, Fr.; Charlie Shirek, So.; Luke Wertz, Jr.

Left-handed pitchers: Drew Bowman, So.; Brian Feekin, Fr.; Zach Herr, So.; Dan Jennings, So.; Jon Klausing, Jr.; Eric Rose, Fr.; Tim Scott, Fr.; Charlie Shaver, Fr.; Wes Simmons, Fr.; Tony Watson, Jr.

Catchers: Mitch Abeita, Jr.; Mark Hightower, Jr.; Jeff Lanning, So.; Dominic Piazza, Fr.

Infielders: Andrew Brown, Sr. (OF); Craig Corriston, Jr. (UTIL); Andy Cotton, Fr.; Steve Edlefsen, Jr.; Jake Mort, So.; Jake Opitz, Jr.; Brett Sowers, Fr.; Thad Weber, Jr.; Ryan Wehrle, Jr.

Outfielders: D.J. Belfonte, Fr.; Andy Gerch, Jr.; Aaron Jarosh, Fr.; John Lee, Fr.; Bryce Nimmo, Jr.; Nick Sullivan, So.

COMPETITIVE SCHEDULE

The Huskers have what Anderson describes as an "extremely challenging" schedule, beginning with a day-night double-header against New Mexico at Arlington, Texas, on Feb. 16. The home-opener is set for March 6 against Nebraska-Kearney, and conference play begins at Texas Tech, March 16-18.

The Huskers will have played seven games against 2006 NCAA qualifiers on the road or at neutral sites before opening Big 12 play. Anderson said he had two things in mind when creating the schedule: developing the team and building an RPI to be a position to play host in the postseason.

In addition to an annual visit from in-state rival Creighton, the Huskers' nonconference home schedule includes a game against Iowa and a three-game series against Coastal Carolina, which was a top NCAA regional seed two seasons ago and has played in the postseason in five of the past six seasons.

The Schedule

February: 16 — New Mexico, DH, at Arlington, Texas; **17** — at Texas-Arlington; **18** — Illinois State at Arlington, Texas; **23** —*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, at Houston; **24** — *Rice, at Houston; **25** — *Florida Atlantic, at Houston

March: 2 — ^Iowa, at Deland, Fla.; **3** — ^Notre Dame, at Deland, Fla.; **4** — ^Stetson, at Deland, Fla. **6** — Nebraska-Kearney; **9-11** — at Alabama; **14** — Wayne State; **16-18** — at TEXAS TECH; **20-21** — Western Illinois; **23-25** — MISSOURI; **27-28** — Northern Colorado; **30-31** — at TEXAS A&M

April: 1 — at TEXAS A&M; **3** — Creighton; **5-7** — OKLAHOMA STATE; **10** — Iowa; **11** — at Wichita State; **13-15** — at OKLAHOMA; **17** — Creighton, at Rosenblatt Stadium, Omaha; **20-22** — TEXAS; **24-25** — North Dakota State; **27-29** — KANSAS STATE

May: 4-6 — Coastal Carolina; **11-13** — BAYLOR; **15** — Creighton, at Rosenblatt Stadium, Omaha; **18-20** — at Kansas; **23-27** — BIG 12 TOURNAMENT, at Oklahoma City

June: 1-4 — NCAA regionals; **8-12** — NCAA super-regionals; **15-25** — College World Series, at Rosenblatt Stadium, Omaha

*Rice Tournament
^Stetson Invitational
Big 12 all caps ■

Quick Hits

BUTLER COUNTY CONNECTION

Butler County Community College in El Dorado, Kan., has been a fertile recruiting ground for the Cornhuskers the past two years. Quarterback Zac Taylor, wide receiver Frantz Hardy, tight end Justin Tomerlin and, most recently, I-back Kenny Wilson all played there.

The Grizzlies have an "excellent" coaching staff, according to coach Bill Callahan, "great people that work with young men at Butler. Aaron Flores and everybody down there does an excellent job of helping these young kids flourish under their guidance and mentorship," said Callahan.

Flores is the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for seventh-year head coach Troy Morrell. The Grizzlies have been in the top three nationally in total offense in each of the last three seasons, leading the nation a year ago by averaging 490 yards and 46.5 points per game. With Taylor at quarterback two seasons ago, Butler County averaged 466 yards and 45 points per game.


Kenny Wilson

The Grizzlies have won five consecutive Jayhawk Conference championships and were undefeated in conference play in each of the four previous seasons. They have played in the NJCAA national championship game three times in Morrell's six seasons as head coach.

During that time, 85 of his players have earned NCAA Division I-A or I-AA scholarships, including 13 last season — among them Wilson, one of the Grizzlies' five NJCAA All-Americans.

The Butler County coaches "have a great grasp of what it is that they want to accomplish," Callahan said. "They're very advanced for a junior college, and they take great pride in throwing the football. They have all the up-to-date trends and techniques that most of the Division I schools are utilizing.

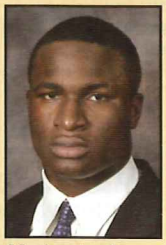
"So they're very much on the cutting edge. They're very advanced in their thinking and their approach and (they) try to get the players that plug into their system."

Nebraska has a connection to Butler County. Mike Bargen, the son of Cornhusker compliance director and former basketball assistant Gary Bargen, is in his second year as an assistant basketball coach there.

Kansas has "always been pretty much a strong point in junior college recruiting as far back as I could remember, since I've been coaching," said Callahan. "That Jayhawk Conference has always been strong, and that's something we'll always try to keep going and try to take the best players out of."

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Two days after the Troy victory, folks were still talking about Marlon Lucky's performance. The sophomore I-back was named the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week, the first Cornhusker to be so honored in 2006, after rushing for 156 yards and three touchdowns.


Marlon Lucky

His touchdowns were on runs of 34, 45 and 51 yards. Lucky was "extremely close" to breaking long runs at USC, according to Callahan. "He had two runs that I know of, for a fact, that he could've made big plays on and he just missed," Callahan said during the Big 12 coaches' teleconference. I think he tripped up on one and the other one, he kind of got pinned into the boundary."

Lucky was especially effective on "cutback plays" and "zone runs," said Callahan. Despite dealing with a "little bit of a sore elbow," he "got continuously better and more competitive as the game went on. So the more you can get those guys the ball and see cuts and see holes, the better they'll be."

Lucky also earned praise for "a couple of instances of pass protection where he stepped up nicely and took on a blitzer. We're really proud of that just as much as his ability to run the football."

Pass protection is among three things running backs coach Randy Jordan emphasizes. The others are taking care of the ball and gaining at least 4 yards for favorable down-and-distance situations. Lucky did those things against Troy, after being involved in a mishandled exchange early in the third quarter of the USC game. Quarterback Zac Taylor was charged with the critical lost fumble, however.

PACKING 'EM IN

No surprise here. The top-ranked Husker volleyball team's non-conference match against in-state rival Creighton drew a crowd of 12,112 to Qwest Center Omaha on Sept. 24. The crowd was the second-largest in the regular season in NCAA history for a volleyball-only event.

The largest such crowd was 12,504 for a Nebraska-Colorado match at the Bob Devaney Sports Center arena in 2000. It was "just electric," said coach John Cook. Creighton won the first game 30-27, but the Huskers stormed back to win the next three, 30-24, 30-13 and 30-18, behind Jordan Larson.

The NCAA semifinals and finals are set for Qwest Center Omaha, of course, Dec. 16-18.

ONE OF TWO

The Husker soccer team opened conference play on the road — its first road match of the season, in fact — with a 2-0 victory against Missouri at Columbia. It the victory was Nebraska's 13th in a row in conference openers. But the Huskers lost their second Big 12 match 3-2 in double overtime at Iowa State. The overtimes were forced by a Cyclone goal on a penalty kick in the final minute of regulation.

Nebraska senior Brittany Timko was credited with an assist on the second goal, setting a school record by scoring at least one point in 13 consecutive matches.

The Huskers dropped to 1-1-2 in overtimes this season.

OFF AND RUNNING, SORT OF

The Doc Sadler era began on Sept. 22 with a full-team workout, which included conditioning, at the Devaney Sports Center. NCAA rules now allow for such workouts on a regular, but not daily, basis until the official start of practice on Oct. 13 - a Friday. The workout was open to the public.

Freshman recruit Robert Sallie did not participate, after an appeal to the NCAA Clearinghouse failed. "We support Robert's wishes and anything he wants to do, but all further steps will come from Robert and his attorney, Don Jackson," Sadler said in a release issued in mid-September.

Jackson indicated that Sallie might go to court in an attempt to be cleared to play.

Sadler has completed his staff with the hiring of Chris Croft as director of operations and Jim Shaw as video coordinator. Croft, a native of Louisville, Miss., was a program specialist for Sadler at Texas-El Paso last season. Shaw, a San Antonio, Texas, native, also was a program specialist at UTEP.

Croft's background includes being a Division I assistant at, among other schools, Oklahoma State under Eddie Sutton (1996-97), and a head coach at the NAIA level.

NATIONAL HONOR


Keith Zimmer

Keith Zimmer, Nebraska's assistant athletic director for Life Skills, was presented the Dr. Gene Hooks Award for CHAMPS Administrator of the Year at the NCAA Division I-A Athletic Directors Association convention in Grapevine, Texas, in late September.

CHAMPS stands for Challenging Athletes' Minds for Personal Success. The award is presented to an administrator who has made a significant contribution to the program over a five-year period.

Zimmer has worked at Nebraska since 1988, directing the Life Skills program and oversees the career counseling for student-athletes and community outreach programs. ■

'Very, Very Unusual'

Nebraska's coaches finding creative ways to use abundant tight end depth



Mike BABCOCK

OPPOSING DEFENSES anticipated running plays when Tim Carpenter was on the field. When No. 90 was in the game, defenders would call out, "Run." And they would be right most of the time.

Carpenter was a four-year letterman and two-year starter at tight end on Nebraska teams that won three national championships. He was a 6-foot-3, 250-pound blocker, a sixth lineman.

He caught only two passes during his Cornhusker career, the first in 1994, against Pacific, the second in 1995, also against Pacific. After the 1995 season, Pacific quit playing football.

There was no truth to the rumor that Pacific disbanded its football program because of Carpenter's catches. It was just a coincidence. But he took some good-natured kidding about it.

Sheldon Jackson and Vershan Jackson also were tight ends on the 1997 national championship team, alternating with Carpenter. They didn't catch a lot of passes, but they were the receiving threats.

Distinctions between blocking and receiving tight ends can't be made these days. All of Nebraska's tight ends are "guys that can catch the ball," tight ends coach Shawn Watson said.

"It's really important in this offense; the tight ends have to be trained as receivers."



Shawn Watson is in his first season as tight ends coach.

That's why they have their own position coach. Prior to coach Bill Callahan's arrival, the receivers coach typically worked with wide receivers and wingbacks as well as tight ends. Not so now.

Nebraska also has more tight ends than it once did. Nine were listed on the roster, including six in the regular rotation with the others developing on the scout team.

"We have a good hand that's been dealt to us with depth," said Watson. "The guys have been in the offense for the third year, so they can understand what we're trying to do."

Because of that understanding, "we can add more to it," he said. "And we've done that."

Six might seem like a lot of tight ends, and in most systems it would be. But Callahan's offense utilizes as many as four on the field at the same time. Nebraska has one personnel grouping with four, two with three and two with two, Watson said, with variations using each of the groupings: four tight ends with no backs "for the purpose of throwing," four with one back or four with two backs.

"It's endless," he said. "We're really multiple," and "very, very unusual."

Trying to deal with constantly shifting alignments is disconcerting for a defense. Nebraska can gain an advantage before the ball is snapped if the defense doesn't adjust quickly.

The tight ends are responsible for most of the shifts. The fullback does some, as do the wide receivers. But "the majority of the change in strength, the change in core structure" is from the tight ends.

H-backs J.B. Phillips and Hunter Teafatiller "are the movers. They're the adjusters," Watson said. "We wouldn't be able to do all the things we're doing without J.B. and Hunter."

Phillips is the "shepherd of the group. He's the rock."

Matt Herian, Josh Mueller and Justin Tomerlin are the "steady, true tight end guys. When we have those three-tight end sets, we'll use J.B. sometimes; we'll use Sean Hill sometimes and Josh sometimes. We keep it mixed up so no one can say, 'Oh, when they're in this group, they do this,' or 'With these three guys in, they do that.' We make them chase us, and every week we change it up," said Watson. "It's a credit to the players. We've used our creativity, but the players have to understand it."

The opening-game victory against Louisiana Tech illustrated the Cornhuskers' utilization of multiple tight ends, as Herian, Phillips, Mueller and Teafatiller all caught touchdown passes.

Herian draws the most attention, of course, because of his ability as a pass receiver. He already holds the school career-record for receiving yards by a tight end and going into the Kansas game, he was tied with Jerry List (1970-72) for career receptions at the position with 61.

He also needed two touchdown catches to tie that record.

"We use what every guy does best," Watson said. "And then we hide our intentions, too, so people can't just lock in, 'Oh, this guy just does that.' "

When Carpenter played tight end that wasn't as much of a concern. What he did best was block, and there was little attempt to hide the fact he was on the field for that purpose. ■

Mike Babcock *is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 25 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.*

Low Profile

Cyclones have proven they can lose early and still have a shot at Big 12 title game



Curt McKEEVER

TEXAS HAD ALREADY RESPONDED from its loss to top-ranked Ohio State by mashing Rice 52-7, and was getting ready to open Big 12 Conference play against Iowa State.

In Darrell K. Royal/Texas Memorial Stadium, mind you, where the Longhorns had won a league record 15 straight games.

And yet, Mack Brown claimed he had some restless nights.

"They scared me to death," the Texas coach told reporters after his club used an early 16-point barrage to key a 37-14 win against ISU.

The main cause of Brown's nervous stomach would be junior quarterback Bret Meyer, deemed in the preseason to be the top signal-caller in the league.

No doubt, Iowa State coach Dan McCarney is comforted by the fact that he's got a battle-tested player like Meyer to take the Cyclones through a stretch of six straight games against nationally ranked opponents. Before opening October with a key home contest against Nebraska, ISU played at Iowa and Texas and also faced Northern Iowa, the 2005 NCAA Division I-AA runner-up.

Once finished with the Huskers, Iowa State will have to gear up for a trip to Oklahoma and then a home date against Texas Tech.

"It gives me peace of mind going into practice and meetings knowing I have a guy who's already handled both success and adversity," McCarney said. "I've seen him in the best of times and the toughest of times, and I've seen how he responds."

The fleet-footed, rifle-armed Meyer is in his third season as a starter. Last year, he completed 227 of 368 passes (61.7 percent) for 2,876 yards and 19 touchdowns, with 10 interceptions, as Iowa State finished with a 7-5 record.



Dan McCarney has led ISU to bowls five of the last six seasons.

Now, Meyer is operating behind an offensive line that starts nothing but seniors.

"All coaches are looking for those players, especially quarterbacks, who will elevate the play of those around him, and Bret is a great example of that," McCarney said.

Despite facing heavy pressure against Texas (he was sacked a career-high seven times), Meyer completed 24 of 43 passes for 274 yards and two touchdowns.

"Their quarterback is one of the best," Texas cornerback Aaron Ross said. "His receivers — they run good routes."

Austin Flynn, Todd Blythe and Jon Davis combined for 19 receptions in the game. Blythe also scored and went over 100 receptions for his career to join Davis and give the Cyclones two such players on the same team for the first time ever.

It's surprising how Iowa State is able to maintain a low profile. The Cyclones have four players who made the media's preseason first-team all-Big 12 list, and that number probably should have been higher, but for some reason last year's returning all-league center, Scott Stephenson, was left off the list. Only defending national champion Texas (six) had more.

Iowa State has played in a bowl game in five of the past six seasons. What's more, in each of the past two years, the Cyclones went into their final regular-season game knowing a win would send them to the Big 12 championship. Amazingly, they lost both in overtime.

"We're proud of what we've accomplished, and we know that we've got a good program and a good system, and we know how to win," McCarney said. "But, to me, it's not about going in every day and saying, 'Well, I just hope somebody else will respect us.' We go every day, and at the end of the day, I want that program being better than what I got to that morning, and I haven't changed since I took over.

"Do we want to go to the next level? Do we want to put ourselves in a position to go places yet that we haven't gone? Absolutely. And I'll go to my grave trying to get that done at Iowa State."

While ISU has a loaded offense, it began the season with just four returning defensive starters. However, six non-starters saw measurable playing time last season, when Iowa State had its best unit during the McCarney era. And by the time the Cyclones play host to Nebraska, they might have James Smith — the projected starting free safety who broke his ankle in early August — and end Travis Ferguson — out since a preseason shoulder injury — back in the lineup.

"I think we've got good Big 12-talented kids . . . (If) you think I'm going into my team meeting and say, 'You know what? God bless, I hope we can outscore everybody, because our defense ain't going to be worth a damn,' you're crazy," McCarney said. "I'm not going to give those kids an excuse for failure.

"We turned the program around, slowly but surely, playing good defense. Couldn't stop anybody years ago, to putting ourselves in a position every year now — and I don't expect anything less out of this group."

After the loss to Texas, however, the Cyclones ranked last in the Big 12 in scoring and passing defense and were ninth against the run.

But with Meyer and Co., a monumental turnaround might not be as crucial to their overall success.

"We've been a pretty good example that if you do have some losses — and we don't want that — but we've been able to come back and still go to the last Saturday and have a chance to go to the championship game," McCarney said. "Hopefully, we're one of those that (this season) can still be in the hunt come November." ■

***Curt McKeever** is a sportswriter for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football, he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams. He can be reached at cmckeever@journalstar.com*

'The Only

Osborne noticed split end while watching film of his teammate

By Mike Babcock

Nebraska's interest in Dave Shamblin began with another football player at Bonita High School in La Verne, Calif. Allen Carter was a year older and if the Cornhuskers hadn't tried to recruit him, they never would have recruited Shamblin. At least that's the way Shamblin remembers it.

La Verne is located in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, to the east of Los Angeles. Nebraska assistant Tom Osborne traveled there in pursuit of Carter, a running back who ended up going to Southern California and earning letters on national championship teams in 1972 and 1974.

While watching film of Carter, Osborne noticed him, said Shamblin, who also was considering USC as well as UCLA and Arizona State. That was the "only reason Nebraska offered me."

Shamblin, an insurance agent in Lincoln the past 27 years, was being modest. His credentials were impressive enough. He was a multi-sport athlete at Bonita High, earning All-Pomona Valley and All-California Interscholastic Federation recognition as a split end on the football team.

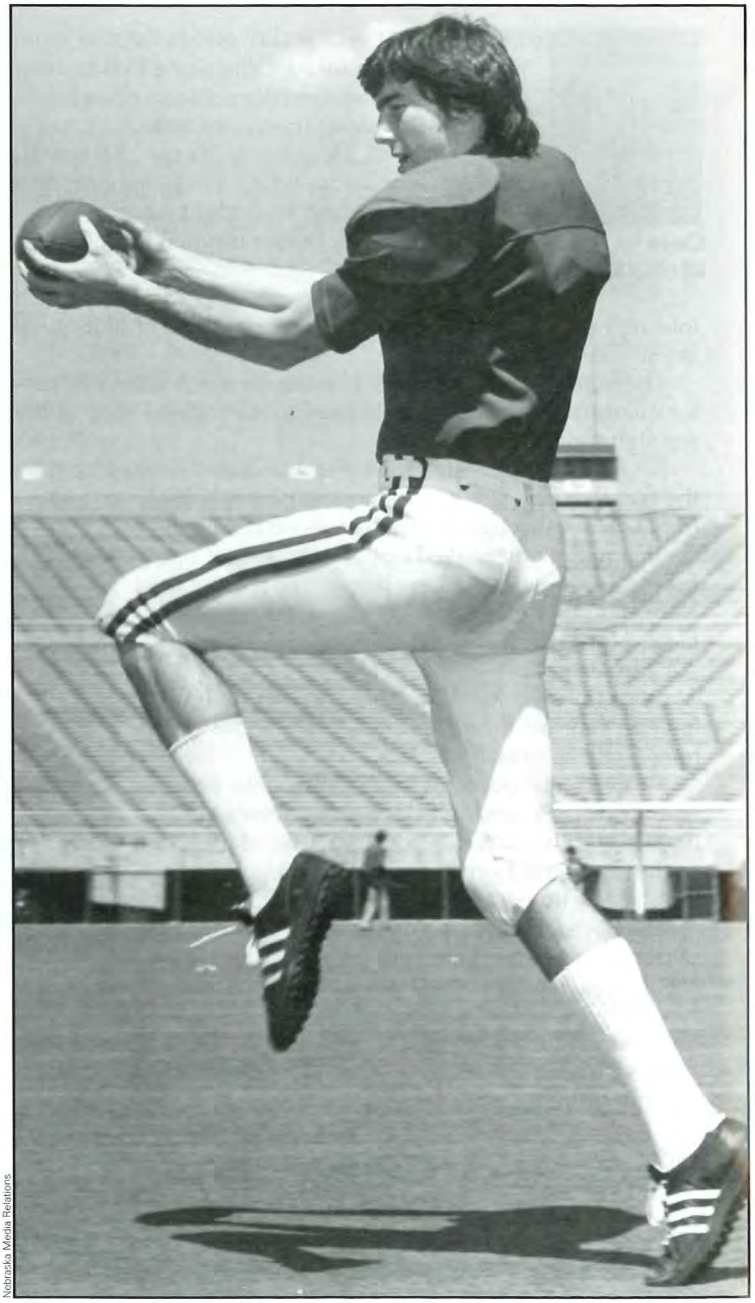
Fifth in a Series

He also played basketball and competed in track and field.

Had he not accepted the Cornhuskers' scholarship offer, he would have gone to UCLA. He signed a Pac-8 letter of intent with the Bruins but signed a national letter of intent with Nebraska.

"I kind of wanted to get out of California," he said.

Osborne also was a significant factor in his decision. "Relative to other coaches at the time, he exuded a lot more integrity," Shamblin said. "You obviously had a lot of trust in what he was going to say. He was a straight-arrow guy." And he was going to be the head coach Shamblin's second year.

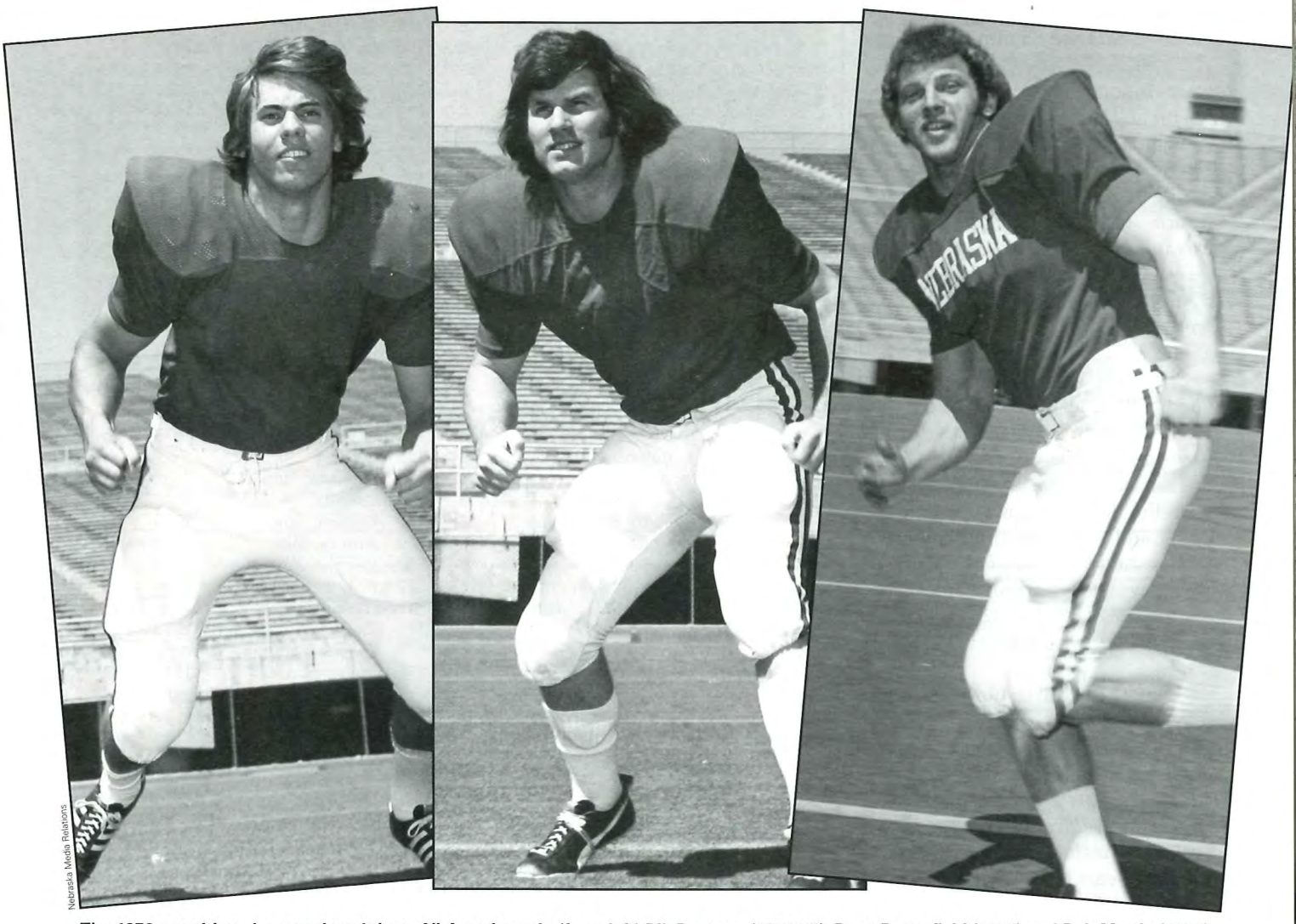


Nebraska Media Relations

Dave Shamblin was among 38 scholarship freshmen in Nebraska's 1972 recruiting class.

Cornhusker coach Bob Devaney planned to retire following the 1971 season — when Shamblin was a high school senior. But he was persuaded to remain one more season, in an attempt to direct Nebraska to a third consecutive national title, something no other major college coach had accomplished.

Reason'



Nebraska Media Relations

The 1972 recruiting class produced three All-Americans in (from left) Rik Bonness (1974-75), Dave Butterfield (1976) and Bob Martin (1975).

Devaney, also the athletic director, had announced that Osborne would be his successor as head coach, after giving his young assistant the responsibility of restructuring the offense following 6-4 seasons in 1967 and 1968. In addition, Osborne had been coordinating the recruiting.

The Cornhuskers might not have emphasized those things during his recruitment, said Shamblin. "But in my mind it was a significant thing, simply because here was the going-to-be head coach taking an interest, recruiting me personally. I came to find out later all that didn't matter."

More specifically, he found out "the best players are going to play."

In any case, Shamblin took two recruiting trips to Nebraska, the first at the expense of the Cornhuskers, the second at the expense of Otto Baumann, a Cornhusker alum and booster. NCAA rules allowed such involvement then. Shamblin was among four high school players from southern California on the trip. The others were Scott Avery, Joe Davis and Vince Ferragamo.

Only Shamblin would sign a letter of intent with Nebraska. Avery and Davis would sign with USC, and Ferragamo would sign with California. Avery spent one year at USC, transferred to Long Beach City College and then transferred to Nebraska in 1974, as did Ferragamo, of course.

Shamblin was among 38 scholarship freshmen in Nebraska's 1972 recruiting class, technically Devaney's

last but in reality Osborne's first. Though an NCAA rules change allowed freshmen to begin playing varsity football in 1972, no freshmen played for the Cornhuskers that season. "It was pretty much ingrained in the system that you had freshman football," Shamblin said.

Nebraska's freshman team, coached by Jim Ross, included some two-dozen walk-ons as well as the scholarship recruits and played four games. "And we couldn't lose," said Shamblin. "That was the thing; we were indoctrinated. 'The Nebraska freshman football team never loses.' "

Shamblin's team went 4-0 to extend a winning streak to 14 games, dating to a 21-13 loss against McCook Junior College in 1969. During Devaney's 11 seasons as coach, the Cornhusker freshman team, coached by John Melton and Clete Fischer as well, lost only three times in 38 games.

Shamblin was among the standouts in 1972, leading the freshmen in receiving with nine catches for 205 yards and three touchdowns. John O'Leary, from Port Washington, N.Y., was the leading rusher, with 399 yards and seven touchdowns on 70 carries. And Glen Ray, from Midland, Texas, was the leading passer, completing 17-of-32 for 320 yards and four touchdowns, with two interceptions.

Several scholarship freshmen played both offense and defense, to identify where they could help the most. Bob Martin, the state of Nebraska's prep athlete of the year from David City, would be a two-time, first-team, All-Big Eight selection and earn All-America recognition as a defensive end.

Nearly half of the scholarship recruits were from Nebraska, with O'Leary, Bill Bunkers and Randy Lessman among the more publicized out-of-state recruits. Bunkers, from Fulda, Minn., and Lessman, from Sioux City, Iowa, were among those who earned high school All-America honors.

The class produced two All-Americans besides Martin, a co-captain in 1975: center Rik Bonness, a two-time All-American (once unanimous) as well as a first-team Academic All-American in 1975, and defensive back Dave Butterfield, a consensus All-American in 1976.

Like Martin, Bonness and Butterfield were two-time, first-team all-conference selections while offensive linemen Bob Lingenfelter and Dan Schmidt were first-team All-Big Eight in 1976.

Lingenfelter and Schmidt were among those who redshirted in 1973. Shamblin played as a true sophomore, catching 15 passes for 338 yards and a touchdown, but sat out a medical redshirt in 1974 as a result of knee surgery. After catching only seven passes in 1975, he was the starting wingback in 1976, also rotating at split end, catching 32 passes for 513 yards and three touchdowns.

Nebraska was ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press preseason poll when Shamblin was a senior but a 6-6 tie at LSU in the opener knocked the Cornhuskers from the top spot. They climbed back to No. 3 with five consecutive victories before suffering their first loss, against Missouri, 34-24.

They would lose twice more, at Iowa State, 37-28, and against Oklahoma, 20-17.

If not for the Sooners, Nebraska might have played for a national championship in 1975. The Cornhuskers were undefeated, untied and ranked No. 2 when they traveled to Norman, Okla., for their final regular-season game — which they lost 35-10 to their No. 7-ranked nemesis.

Osborne wouldn't coach a victory

Recruiting list, 1972

Player, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Letters
Bill Armstrong, fullback-linebacker	6-1	210	Beatrice, Neb.	
Larry Bailey, middle guard	6-1	230	Jersey City, N.J.	
Jim Belka, fullback-linebacker	6-3	189	Prairie Village, Kan.	1974
Randy Benish, quarterback-def. back	6-1	175	Norfolk, Neb.	
Rik Bonness, center	6-4	200	Bellevue, Neb.	1973-74-75
Dan Brock, fullback-tackle	6-4	210	Columbus, Neb.	1974-75-76
Bill Bunkers, back	6-0	170	Fulda, Minn.	
Dave Butterfield, quarterback-safety	5-11	180	Sterling, Colo.	1974-75-76
Scott Copple, quarterback	6-2	195	Lincoln, Neb.	
Joe Dervin, fullback-linebacker	6-1	200	Omaha	
Percy Eichelberger, guard-def. end	6-1	210	Louisville, Miss.	1974-75-76
Tyrone Fambro, off. guard-linebacker	6-1	225	Detroit, Mich.	
Dick Gannon, end	6-3	185	Holdrege, Neb.	
Tom Heiser, halfback-cornerback	5-10	172	Columbus, Neb.	1974-75
Gary Higgs, fullback-linebacker	6-2	190	Toledo, Ohio	1974-75-76
Steve Hoins, lineman	6-3	220	Bellevue, Neb.	1974-75-76
Ken Homola, wide receiver-safety	6-3	190	Indianapolis, Ind.	
John Kane, linebacker	6-2	210	Kansas City, Mo.	1975
Bill Kraft, quarterback-safety	6-2	185	Oelwein, Iowa	
John Lee, tackle	6-4	238	Red Bank, N.J.	1973-74-75
Rick Lemerond, quarterback	6-4	185	Green Bay, Wis.	
Randy Lessman, tackle-end	6-3	205	Sioux City, Iowa	1974-75-76
Bob Lingenfelter, off. tackle-middle guard	6-8	275	Plainview, Neb.	1974-75-76
Chuck Malito, split end	6-1	160	Lakewood, Colo.	1974-75-76
Bob Martin, I-back-linebacker	6-1	188	David City, Neb.	1973-74-75
John O'Leary, halfback	6-1	190	Port Washington, N.Y.	1973-74-75
Ron Pruitt, tackle	6-4	240	Compton, Calif.	1973-74-75
Jeff Pumphrey, split end	6-0	165	Scottsbluff, Neb.	
Glen Ray, quarterback-safety	6-4	205	Midland, Texas	
Dan Schmidt, off. guard-def. end	6-2	215	North Platte, Neb.	1974-75-76
Dave Shamblin, split end	6-3	185	LaVerne, Calif.	1973-74-75
James Sledge, defensive tackle	6-1	225	Omaha	
Chip Smith, tackle	6-4	220	McCook, Neb.	
Wayne Stuberg, center-guard	6-2	195	Omaha	
Chester Talley, halfback-def. back	6-1	180	Denver, Colo.	1975
Willie Thornton, tackle	6-2	220	Amory, Miss.	1973-74
Richard Varner, tackle	6-2	230	Wichita, Kan.	1975
Nick Zanetich, off. guard-linebacker	6-2	222	Hoboken, N.J.	1974
Junior college transfers				
Mark Heydorff, def. back	6-0	186	La Crescenta, Calif./ Glendale Junior College	1973-74
Zaven Yaralian, defensive back	5-11	176	Inglewood, Calif./ El Camino Junior College	1972-73-74

Breakdown by state: Nebraska 16, California 4, Colorado 3, New Jersey 3, Iowa 2, Kansas 2, Mississippi 2, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Texas, Wisconsin.

www.huskersillustrated.com

against Oklahoma until 1978.

Back then, Shamblin never imagined Osborne would become a Hall of Famer. He was only 37-years old in 1973, and "you have to go through a learning process," said Shamblin.

Osborne spoke at a function for Devaney's retirement as athletic director and "admitted he wasn't a very good coach in the early days," Shamblin said. "He apologized to us."

By then, however, there was no need to apologize. When his teams began beating Oklahoma, "I figured he was going to run off and be a really, really, really special coach," said Shamblin.

Much has changed since Shamblin arrived at Nebraska. Memorial Stadium's capacity increased by 9,400, to more than 76,000, with an addition to the south stands in 1972, making it the eighth-largest on-campus stadium in the country and the largest in the Big Eight Conference.

Shamblin attends games, on occasion, but "we're not looking to go to any more away games for a while," he said. His last two road trips were to Kansas last season and USC this season.

The USC game brought together several former teammates, among them Butterfield, Schmidt, O'Leary, Randy Garcia, Mark Heydorff, Bob Nelson, Tom Ruud and Larry Mushinskie.

Some in that group, as well as others including John Dutton and Steve Manstedt, get together annually over Labor Day weekend for a party at Martin's farm near Lincoln. With children grown and gone, "you kind of look for things to do with people from back in the 'good old days,' " Shamblin said. "We've kept in touch with those guys for the last 20 years, and because of that, we all vacation together now." Several of them and their wives have traveled to Mexico together and they're planning a trip to Europe.

Even though he was a long way from home, he was never homesick as a Cornhusker freshman. At least "I don't recall," he said. "It was a good bunch of guys from the beginning."

It started for him with Osborne's interest in a high school teammate. ■

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9-23 Troy	10-14 Kansas St.
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10-21 Texas	11-11 Texas A&M
11-4 Missouri	
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His Time

New starter Byford doing what he 'came here to do'

By Terry Douglass

#59 Brett Byford
Junior Center

When a starting opportunity suddenly and unexpectedly came Brett Byford's way earlier this season, he readily accepted the challenge with little trepidation.

It's not that Byford wasn't impressed by the enormity of the situation — being Nebraska's starting center is indeed a big deal. But instead of being stressed about the turn of events, Byford just figured it was his time.

"It's been fun," said Byford, a 6-foot-3, 300-pound junior from Hartselle, Ala. "It's what I came here to do, and it has really been a good opportunity. I'm just thankful to get the chance to go out there and play."



Scott Bruhn

Byford ascended into a starting role for Nebraska's Sept. 9 game against Nicholls State when senior center Kurt Mann, a three-year starter at the position, was knocked out of the lineup due to a case of mononucleosis. Byford performed well in place of Mann and was even selected as the Cornhuskers' offensive most valuable player for his performance Sept. 16 at Southern California.

"He did great," quarterback Zac Taylor said of Byford. "I have a lot of confidence in Brett. He's got a good head on his shoulders, and he's a smart kid.

"He wasn't nervous at all going into the game as far as I could see, and that's amazing considering he had just played against Nicholls State, and really his first big game (was) against USC. I'm proud of Brett, and we're going to need him more as the season goes on."

Despite the level of competition and the hype associated with the USC contest, Byford said that nerves weren't really an issue for him.

"I was more excited and just eager to get out there and get the job done," Byford said. "I wouldn't say I really had any real concerns. It's just a matter of going out there and playing and doing my job. It's really pretty simple."

To say that a center's job is "simple" is modesty on Byford's part. Besides safely delivering the football to the quarterback's hands and carrying out his own blocking assignment, a center must also serve as the signal-caller of the offensive line, calling out adjustments and altering blocking schemes prior to the snap.

"You do a lot of directing of the line and a lot of call-making at the line of scrimmage," Byford said. "But we're so prepared by our coaches during practice every week, and we spend so much time watching film and studying the opponent that it kind of falls into place on game day because you've pre-

pared so much."

Coach Bill Callahan said Byford has handled his responsibilities well.

"Brett's done a really nice job for us," Callahan said. "He's stepped up at the center position since Kurt has gone down. He's handled everything including the communication at the line. He's competed at a high level. He's been really consistent for us."

Byford said he's learned plenty from watching Mann.

"Kurt is definitely a good person to back up because you learn a lot," Byford said. "He knows his stuff, so I've just really been able to follow his example and imitate what he did out there, and it has gone well.

"Kurt and I have an excellent relationship. We're hunting buddies and brothers in Christ, and so we get along great."

Another reason Byford said he felt at peace with his starting role was his faith.

"I wouldn't say the whole situation has been stress-less, but it really hasn't been as stressful as it possibly could've been had it not been for just having faith that God knows what he's doing," Byford said. "Everything has a purpose, and everything has a season, so it's just a matter of trusting in that and waiting and being patient and having a good attitude no matter what has been huge."

Certainly, Byford's patience has been tested in his college career. He came to Nebraska as one of the country's top offensive line prospects, but was a redshirt in 2003, played in one game in 2004 and none as a sophomore in 2005.

However, Byford said that waiting his turn hasn't been as difficult for him as some might think.

"I've had a lot of faith about it because I know God really is in control of it," Byford said. "My job has just been to work hard and be prepared and allow God to take care of the timing and all that stuff.

"I've definitely, throughout the whole process, grown a ton as a person that I wouldn't have if I would've came in here and started as a true freshman or whatever. I've definitely grown in my faith and just as a human being."

It was partially because of Byford's religious convictions that he wound up at Nebraska. Despite drawing some in-state recruiting interest from schools like Auburn, Troy and UAB, Byford took a liking to former Nebraska assistant coach Turner Gill, who is now the head coach at Buffalo.

"It was Turner Gill, mostly," Byford said of his decision to come to Nebraska. "He was an awesome recruiter and an awesome Christian guy, and I just kind of fell in love with him and the program.

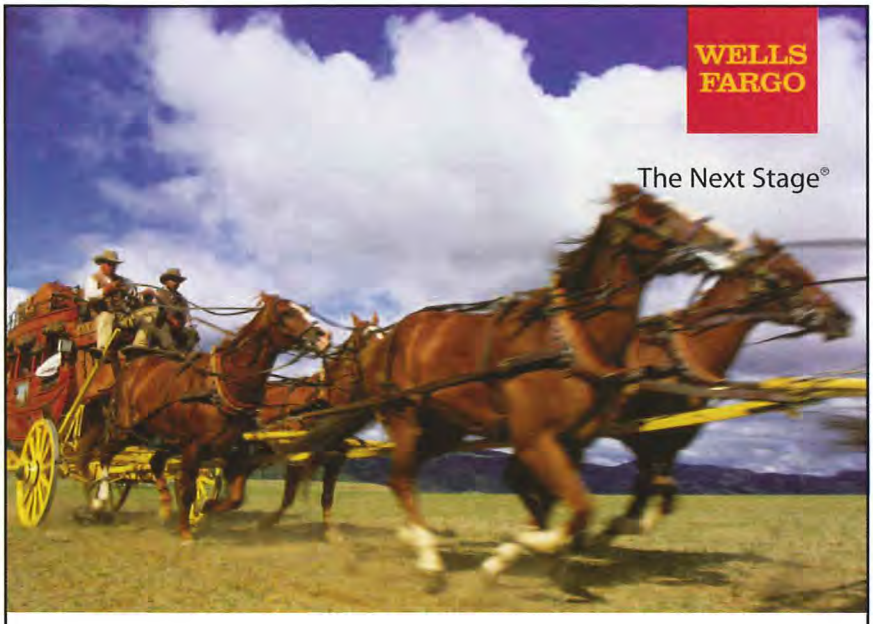
"Some people gave me a little bit of a hard time, but not too much. They were pretty happy for me."

A psychology major, Byford said he isn't certain about what career path he'll take, but he knows one thing for certain: he wants to work in a job where he can help other people.

"It's pretty open right now," Byford said. "I'm getting that degree because I want to work with people in some sort of way. I have a passion for preaching and I do a little bit of that here and there in town.

"The most important things to me right now are getting my degree and my faith. I just want to grow in my love for Christ and to be more and more like him. If I can do that, then I'll be set." ■

Terry Douglass *is the sports editor of the Grand Island (Neb.) Independent. He can be reached at terry.douglass@charter.net.*



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10 Questions


Scott Bruhn

with HUNTER TEAFATILLER

6-3/220 So. Tight End

Kingsburg, Calif.

Things couldn't have worked out much better for Hunter Teafatiller. He knew coach Bill Callahan before he came to Nebraska. And he knew defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove, too. Both were assistant coaches at Illinois when his dad, Guy, played noseguard for the Fighting Illini.

Oh yes, he also knew his position coach, Shawn Watson, who had the Illinois connection, as well. In fact, Teafatiller planned to walk on at Colorado because Watson was there. But Colorado would have been more expensive, so he became a Cornhusker instead. Then Watson joined Callahan's staff.

"It just ended up good," said Teafatiller.

Good? It couldn't have been better.

Teafatiller made a 45-minute drive from Kingsburg to Fresno, Calif., to attend San Jaoquin Memorial High School, where he played, primarily, tight end and defensive end. He was considering Oregon, Oregon State and California as well as Fresno State before Nebraska and Colorado contacted him.

He visited Nebraska in the spring of 2005, just before the Spring Game.

Even though he was a walk-on, he was among the 105 on the training camp roster, and he played without redshirting, contributing on special teams — punt return and kickoff return. The first game in which he saw action was the Cornhuskers' first on the road, at Baylor.

In this season's opener against Louisiana Tech, he caught his first pass, from Joe Ganz, good for 29 yards and a touchdown. "I was pretty hyped up about it," he said. "There's nothing really like it. You can't get more of an adrenaline rush than that. It was a lot of fun, very intense."

He played several positions in high school, including quarterback and fullback on offense and linebacker and safety as well as end on defense. He didn't play tight end until he was a senior.

Nebraska recruited him as an athlete, and asked him to give long-snapping a try, too. "I don't think they knew what I was going to do," he said. "I told them I preferred tight end.

"We just went from there."

And it couldn't have worked out better.

If you could eat only one thing for the next month, what would it be?

"Sushi, I love raw fish. It could be anything. My favorite? Green mussels, you can either eat them straight or put a little soy sauce on them."

If your life were made into a movie, who would you pick to play the part of you?

"I like Mark Wahlberg, the 'Invincible' guy, or that dude from 'Transporter' (Jason Statham)."

If you could play a sport at the collegiate level other than football, what would it be?

"Lacrosse or rugby. Nobody plays them out west. I used to screw around . . . one of my uncles, well, he's not really my uncle, just a family friend on my dad's side, but he plays rugby. I played with him when I was younger. They were all grown men, though, so it was just kind of an experience, just the physicality and the toll it takes on people."

What's the most impressive thing about Kingsburg?

"It's a Swedish village. There used to be about 8,000 people. Now there are about 11,000. It's grown pretty big. It's just one big Swedish community. Everything there is Swedish. They have a Swedish festival and all kinds of stuff."

Who's the funniest tight end on the team?

"It would have to be (Josh) Mueller. He's a clown. He's a big goofball in meetings. He always tries to screw with me because I'm the younger guy. He and (Matt) Herian are quite a duo. Herian's quiet until you get him outside of everyone else."

If you had only three CDs and a CD player on which to listen to them, what would they be?

"Let's see, Audioslave, Stone Temple Pilots and Red Hot Chili Peppers. I like a lot of old-school rock."

If you could spend 30 minutes with any celebrity, sports or otherwise, who would you pick?

"Troy Polamalu, the way he plays, he just looks like he could be a wild person. I don't know if he is or not. He just looks like he'd be pretty intense all around."

When you eat a hot dog, what do you put on it?

"I don't eat hot dogs. I eat bratwurst, Polish dogs, stuff like that . . . ketchup, mayonnaise, onions; that's probably it."

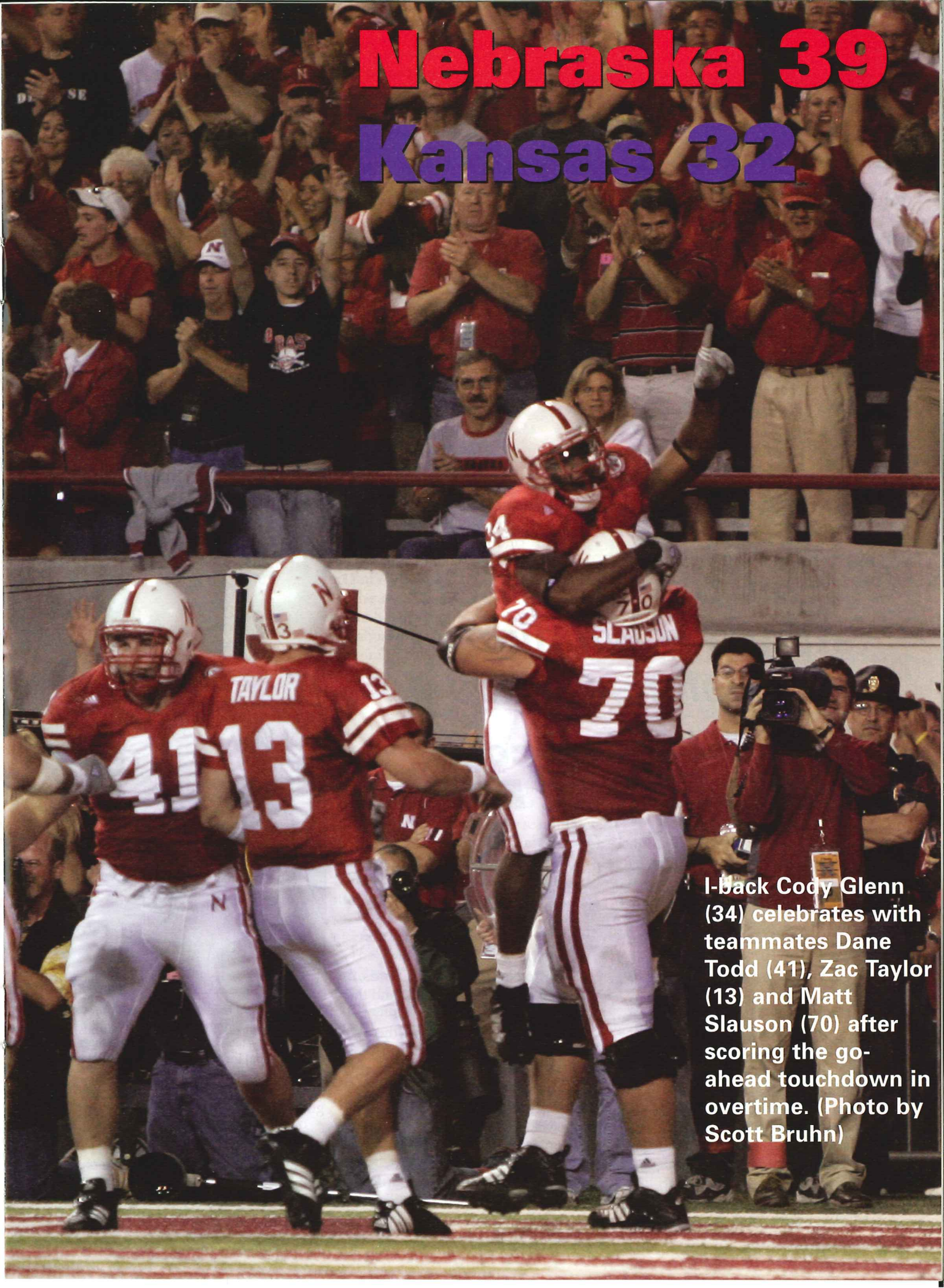
If you were on 'Star Search,' what would your talent be?

"I have no idea. It would probably be my tongue. I can touch my nose with my tongue. That would have to be it."

If you started a band, what would you name it, and what kind of music would you play?

"It would be the Bamfs and we'd play hard, old-school rock. I tried playing the guitar when I was younger. I didn't have the patience for it." ■

Nebraska 39
Kansas 32



I-back Cody Glenn (34) celebrates with teammates Dane Todd (41), Zac Taylor (13) and Matt Slauson (70) after scoring the go-ahead touchdown in overtime. (Photo by Scott Bruhn)

Rising Up

Key pass play sets stage for winning TD, and defense holds on

By Mike Babcock
Photos: Scott Bruhn



Nebraska wide receiver Nate Swift makes a leaping catch along the sideline over Kansas cornerback Aqib Talib to give the Huskers a first-and-goal inside the 1-yard line in overtime. Cody Glenn scored on the next play.

Under the circumstances, Nebraska was where it wanted to be, according to quarterback Zac Taylor, overtime, "right there, 0-0, and you've just got to go 25 yards to score," he said.

"Twenty-five yards isn't a problem for us. We just knew if we could get seven on the board, our defense would take care of the rest."

It played out just that way. The Cornhuskers needed only three plays to score seven points for a 39-32 lead against Kansas. And then the defense rose up and shut down the Jayhawks.

Nebraska's possession went like this:

Marlon Lucky for 3 yards,

Worth Another Look

Taylor to Nate Swift for 21 yards,

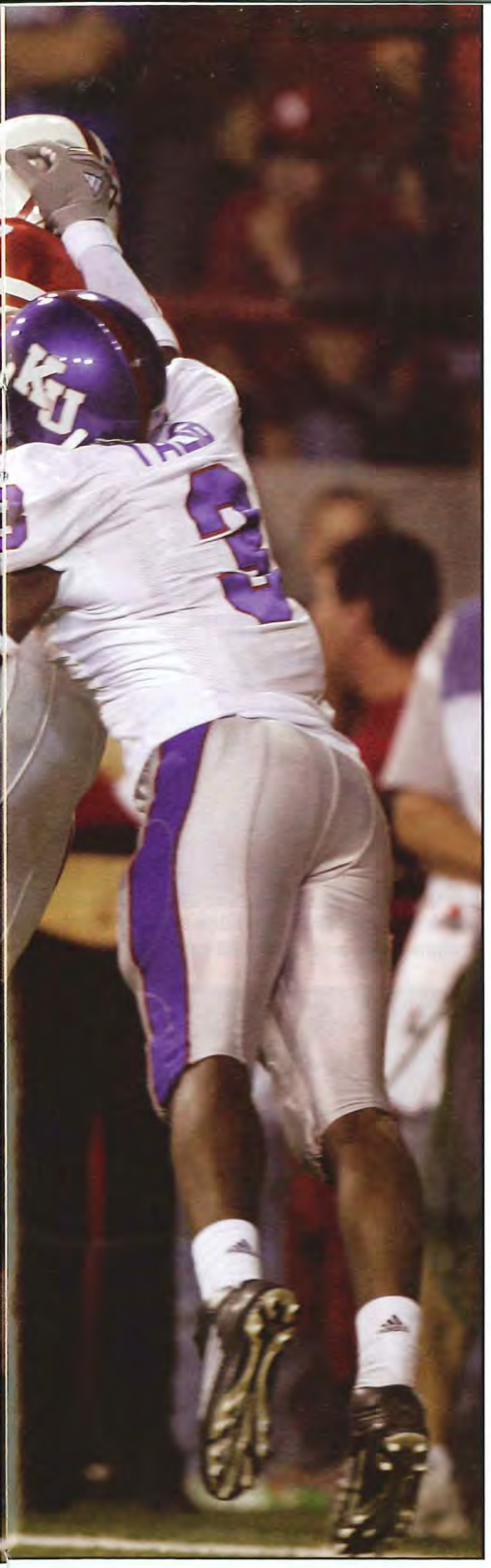
And Cody Glenn for 1 yard and the touchdown.

The pass to Swift was thrown under pressure. "They brought a Mike-Will blitz on that and the guy got through," Taylor said. The guy who got through was Jayhawk linebacker Mike Rivera.

"I could see him coming clean, so I knew I needed to get the ball off," said Taylor. "Really, I thought Swift was going to be more open than he was. The corner actually made a pretty good play.

"But Nate came down with it and helped me out."

Kansas coach Mark Mangino challenged. But the replay showed Swift had possession in bounds. In fact, the replay showed that the ball should be



marked less than a yard from the goal.

Enter Glenn at I-back, with an alignment that included three tight ends and fullback Dane Todd. "I bet anybody here could have run that touchdown," said Glenn, who ran through a hole on the left side.

"The guys up front, they just kept talking to me, 'Just follow us; we're going to lead the way. You gotta get in,'" Glenn said. "I made a promise to them that I was going to get in.

"I'm the type of person that'll never break a promise. Even if it wasn't like that, if there were three guys (defenders), I was going to try to get in . . . I WAS going to get in."

Jordan Congdon's kick was point No. 39, just in case.

Kansas would run eight plays before Nebraska's celebration — or deep sigh of relief — could begin. The Jayhawks converted on fourth down, to begin first-and-10 at the Nebraska 14-yard line.

The final four plays were Adam Barmann passes, the first complete for 5 yards. The second was broken up by cornerback Andre Jones. The third was released under the pressure of a blitz by middle linebacker Corey McKeon. And the fourth, also under pressure, fell short of the receiver.

Oh yes, and Jones was covering, just to make sure.

The overtime was an anti-climax as far as drama was concerned. Kansas scored 22 second-half points to force the overtime, including 13 in the final 6:32 of regulation.

The most dramatic play, however, might have been the one that gave the Cornhuskers a 32-25 lead with 4:13 remaining. They faced third-and-18 from their own 25-yard line, after a sack and a fumble on a botched center snap, which I-back Brandon Jackson managed to recover.

Nebraska wide receiver Frantz Hardy had one-on-one coverage, "with a safety cheating away," Taylor said. That left Hardy against cornerback Blake Bueltel, a former teammate of Hardy's and Taylor's at Butler County (Kan.) Community College. "That was just a play we wanted to get off.

"We just wanted to throw it up and let Frantz make a play."

The throw "wasn't great on my part," said Taylor.

But Hardy gathered it in and raced to the end zone.

Even though the Cornhuskers squandered a 17-0 first-quarter lead, the result was cause for celebration rather than concern, Taylor said. "We're 1-0 in conference play. If we would have won by 60 or won by one point, it's all the same at this point. It's tough that we blew that lead. It's disappointing.

"But I'll take any win from here on out." ■

Report Card

RUSHING OFFENSE

The Cornhuskers, who went into the game ranked 10th nationally in rushing (averaging 224.3) started strong, rushing for 67 yards in the first quarter. But they managed only 49 the rest of the way. And more significantly, they averaged less than 4 yards per carry. ★★

PASSING OFFENSE

Quarterback Zac Taylor completed less than 50 percent but passed for a season-high 395 yards and four touchdowns without an interception. He averaged a school-record 26.63 yards per completion, with the help of three of the longest pass plays of his Cornhusker career. ★★★★★

RUSHING DEFENSE

Jon Cornish rushed for 145 yards, the second season in a row in which he ran for more than 100 yards against the Blackshirts. Because of his efforts, Kansas averaged 4.2 yards per rush. ★★

PASSING DEFENSE

The good news is, the Cornhuskers intercepted Adam Barmann three times. The bad news is, he completed 27-of-54 for 405 yards and two touchdowns. Oh yes, and he wasn't sacked, although Nebraska's pass defense did get the job done in overtime. ★★

SPECIAL TEAMS

Nebraska's special-teams play wasn't spectacular, but there weren't breakdowns. Dan Titchener averaged 38.4 yards on seven punts, three of which were downed inside the 20. ★★★

Numbers

Kansas ran 94 plays from scrimmage, a record against Nebraska. The previous record was 92 plays, by Oklahoma in 1948. The Jayhawks' 574 yards of total offense were the sixth most ever against Nebraska. And their 32 points were their highest total at Memorial Stadium since 1899 (36).

94

NEBRASKA-KANSAS NOTES

DEFENSE STEPPED UP

Even though Nebraska's defense allowed 574 yards and 32 points, it stepped up in overtime, according to coach Bill Callahan. Defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove "came with a full house," Callahan said. "He dropped the house on the last play of the game and really wanted to get after their quarterback. I credit our guys for the constant pressure they put on him in that overtime period to shake them up and force a quick throw." The Cornhuskers never sacked Adam Barmann, however.

RUNNING GAME PROBLEMS

Nebraska struggled to establish its running game. "I'm a believer that momentum is created by execution, and we didn't have the execution that we needed," said Callahan. "Consequently, you lose that momentum when you don't execute and don't take care of the football.

"I think our backs will get better than that. I think they'll learn. We're fortunate that we had the ability to come back from behind and put some points on the board there at the end to take the lead. Our backs are getting better every week. We had some good runs today; we just missed some opportunities and weren't as effective in our ball security as we should have been."

The Cornhuskers lost three fumbles, including one each by Marlon Lucky and Cody Glenn.

THREE TIMES OVER

Quarterback Zac Taylor's 395 passing yards were the second-most in a game in school history, behind his record 431 yards against Iowa State last season, also in overtime. Taylor now has the top three passing totals on the Cornhuskers' all-time list. His 392 yards against Colorado last season rank third.

Despite the total, and a personal-best tying four touchdown passes, "that wasn't my best game," said Taylor, who went into the game with a .706 completion percentage. "There were a lot of inconsistencies in my throws. I just missed some throws I should have had. I don't know what the problem was."

The Kansas defense was part of the problem. "You've got to give them credit; they made plays," Taylor said. "They made me pay when I made a mistake."

PRODUCTIVE HARDY

Frantz Hardy's 159 receiving yards, on three catches, were the fourth most in Cornhusker history, and the most since Matt Davison had a school-record 167 receiving yards at Texas A&M in 1988. Hardy is the first receiver in school history to have more than one game of 150 or more receiving yards. He had 152 yards in his first game as a Cornhusker, against Maine last season.

NUNN MOVES UP

Terrence Nunn caught three passes for 98 yards and a touchdown — on a 75-yard play, the game's second from scrimmage. With the three receptions, Nunn now ranks fourth on the Cornhuskers' career list with 76. He is eight receptions behind Jeff Kinney, who is third on the list with 84.

Nunn, a junior, has caught at least one pass in 18 consecutive games, the third-longest streak in school history. Johnny Rodgers is first (37), and Matt Davison is second (20).

SCARY MOMENT

Kansas outside linebacker Eric Washington was taken from the field on a stretcher during the third quarter. But he was "doing well," Jayhawk coach Mark Mangino said after the game. "It was scary for a moment. He briefly lost consciousness and then he didn't have feeling in his extremities. We were very concerned, but the report that I got is that he's fine."

Mangino commended Nebraska's medical staff. It did an "outstanding job with preparing Eric and transporting him to make sure that everything was done properly," he said.

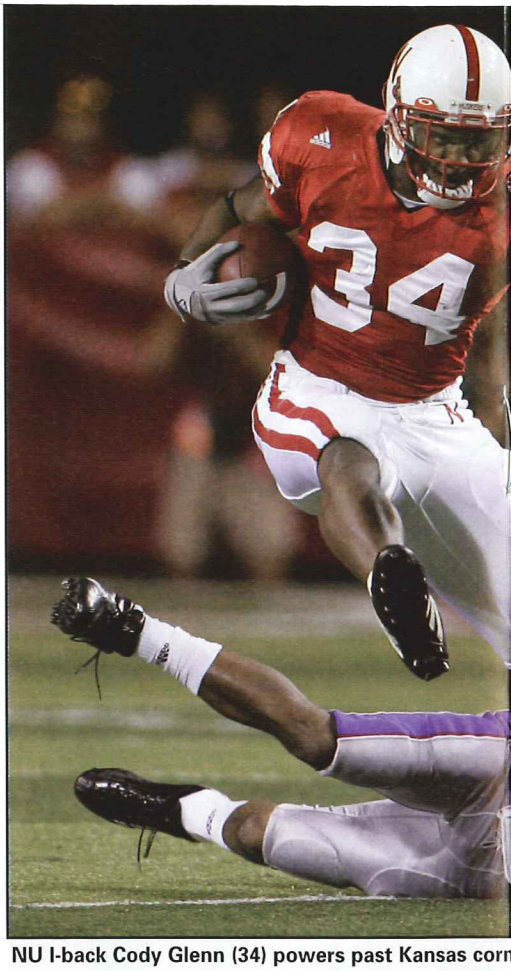
CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

Mangino used his one replay challenge to contest Nate Swift's pass reception inside the Jayhawk 1-yard line in overtime. Each coach has one challenge, "so I might as well use it," said Mangino. "It's kind of like, 'No sense of saving your money when you're going to die. You can't take it with you.' You might as well use it because I thought, maybe, perhaps, he bobbled it. His feet were in. I could see that, but I thought maybe he didn't have possession when he went out of bounds."

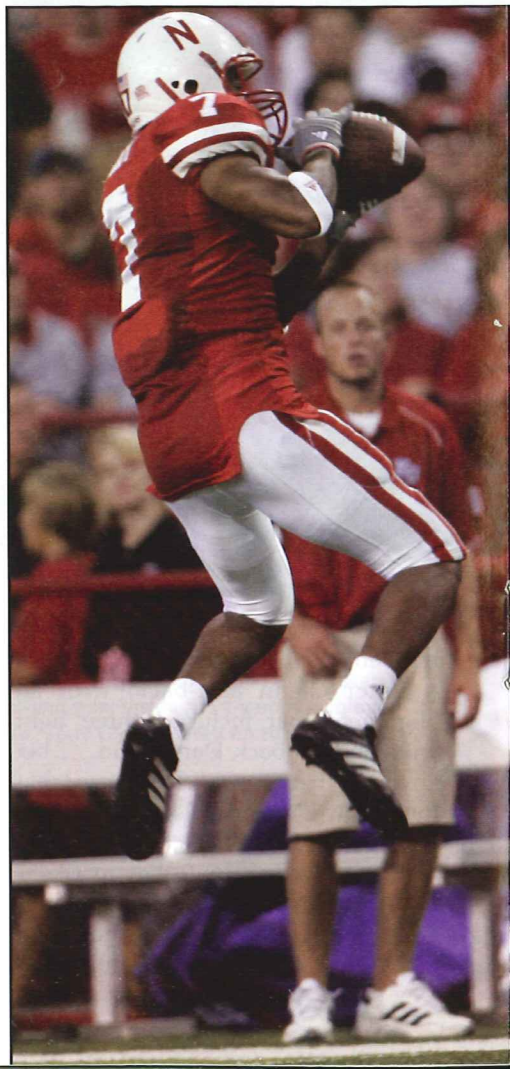
LOTS OF RECRUITS

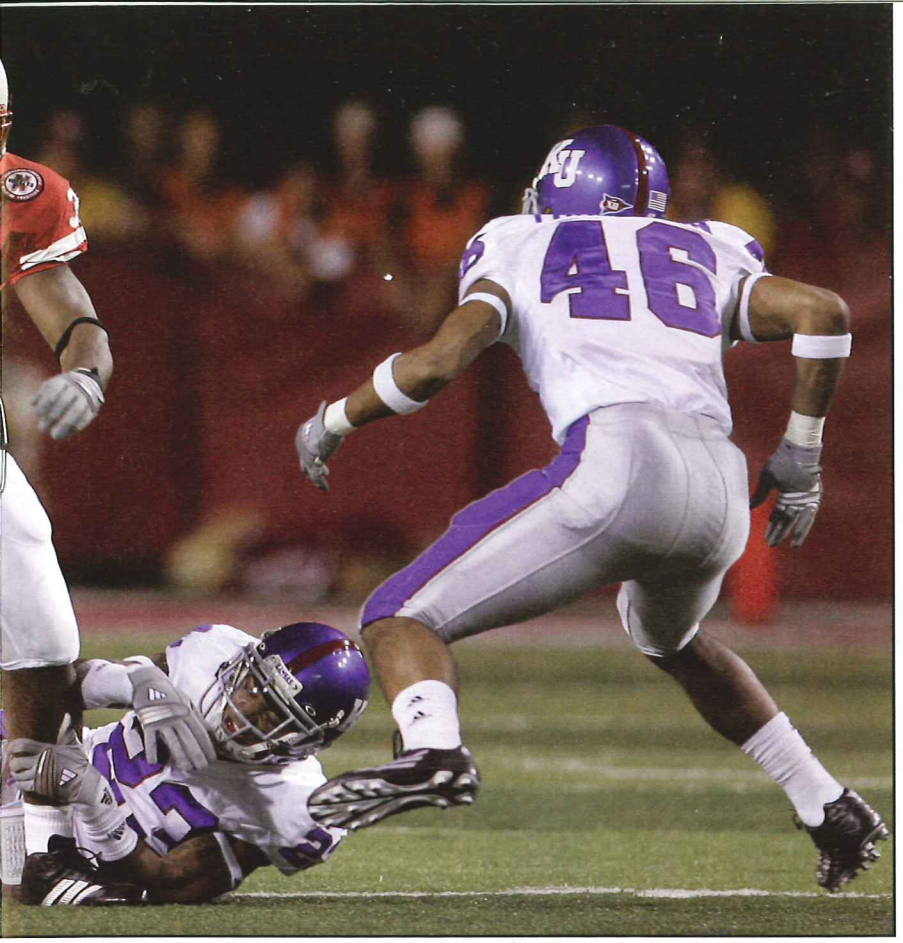
At the Big Red Breakfast in Omaha on the Friday before the game, cornerbacks coach Phil Elmassian said the weekend would be "huge" in terms of bringing in recruits. At least eight prospects were expected to attend the Kansas game. In addition, the Cornhuskers received an oral commitment for Roy Helu, Jr., a 5-foot-11, 206-pound running back from San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, Calif.

Helu, who also was considering Oregon, California and BYU, visited Nebraska the weekend of the season-opener against Louisiana Tech. His commitment brings Nebraska's total to 11. ■

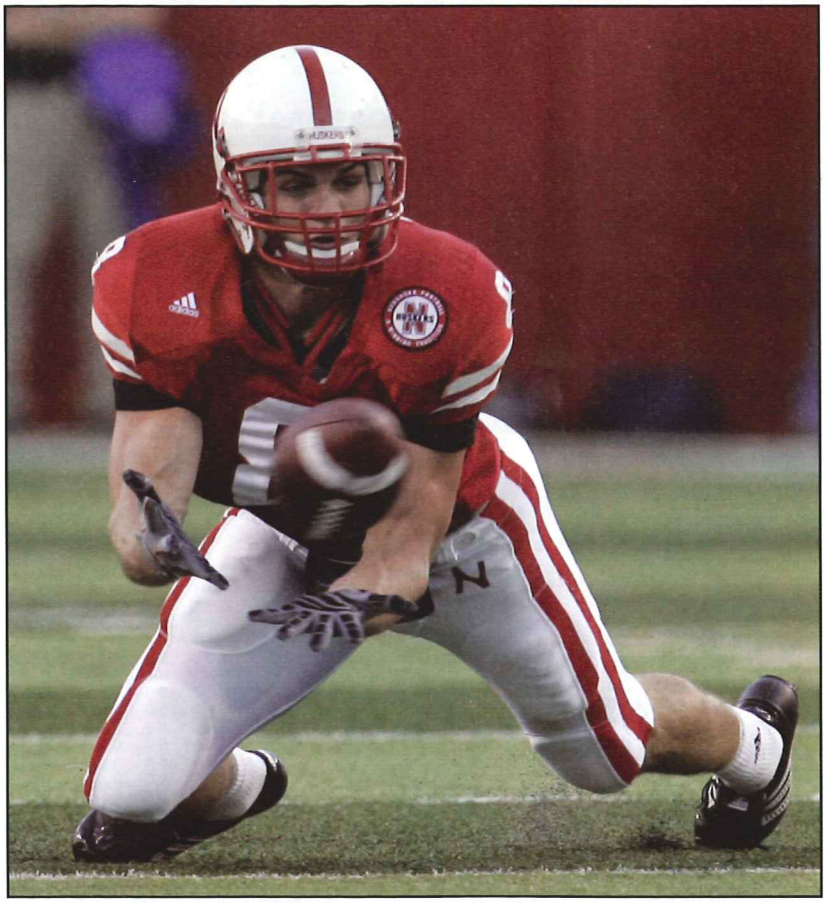


NU I-back Cody Glenn (34) powers past Kansas corn
straight times and gained 32 yards before a fumble





nerback Blake Bueltel (23), as safety Justin Thornton (46) moves in. Glenn carried five stopped the third-quarter drive.



Wide receiver Frantz Hardy and safety Andrew Shanle each contributed big plays. Hardy (left) catches the first of his two long touchdown passes. Shanle (above) goes to the ground to make the first of his two first-quarter interceptions.

Who Stood Out?

OFFENSE

Wide receiver Frantz Hardy caught three passes, two of them for touchdowns on plays covering 78 and 75 yards. Nebraska's game plan included isolating X receivers on cornerbacks, and Hardy is an X receiver, "so he did a good job of working the corners over in single coverage," said Taylor.



Frantz Hardy

"It just happened to be Frantz that made the plays. It's great to see any of those guys catch balls, make plays and help us win the game. Frantz did just that. I'm sure his confidence is really high after that. That's the kid I'm used to. I'm used to Frantz catching 70-yard touchdown passes."

DEFENSE



Corey McKeon

Middle linebacker Corey McKeon was credited with a game-high nine tackles. He also forced a fumble, broke up a pass and had one quarterback hurry. Strongside linebacker Stewart Bradley and defensive end Adam Carriker each had eight tackles — three of Carriker's were for losses.

SPECIAL TEAMS



Jordan Congdon

Jordan Congdon was four-for-four on extra-point kicks and he kicked a 21-yard field goal. He is expected to do such things, of course, but a failed extra-point attempt by Kansas early in the third quarter proved costly.

Injury Report

Senior center Kurt Mann can't practice yet, after a bout with mono. But he has been working with strength coach Dave Kennedy. "We're just trying to get his energy back right now, get his strength back, and the other numbers he needs to get back relative to his condition," coach Bill Callahan said.

Linebackers Clayton Sievers and Steve Octavien were sidelined by injuries for a second consecutive game, while I-back Cody Glenn returned after missing the Troy game with a hamstring problem.

GAME STATS

SCORING

Sept. 30, 2006
Memorial Stadium Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance 85,069

	1	2	3	4	OT	F
Kansas	0	10	9	13	0	32
Nebraska	17	7	0	8	7	39

First Quarter

		KU	NU
NU	Nunn Pass from Taylor 75-yards (Congdon Kick) 14:02 **Drive:** 2 plays 80 yds 0:58	0	7
NU	Peterson Pass from Taylor 6-yards (Congdon Kick) 10:20 **Drive:** 1 plays 6 yds 0:27	0	14
NU	Congdon 21-yard Field Goal 00:23 **Drive:** 11 plays 92 yds 4:27	0	17

Second Quarter

KU	McAnderson 1-yard Run (Webb Kick) 11:45 **Drive:** 7 plays 95 yds 3:26	7	17
NU	Hardy Pass from Taylor 78-yards (Congdon Kick) 06:51 **Drive:** 3 plays 98 yds 1:32	7	24
KU	Webb 31-yard Field Goal 00:00 **Drive:** 12 plays 56 yds 1:33	10	24

Third Quarter

KU	Cornish 8-yard Run (TEAM Kick Failed) 12:01 **Drive:** 1 plays 8 yds 0:13	16	24
KU	Webb 35-yard Field Goal 05:47 **Drive:** 9 plays 43 yds 2:50	19	24

Fourth Quarter

KU	Fine Pass from Barmann 1-yard (Barmann Pass Fail) 06:32 **Drive:** 11 plays 88 yds 5:25	25	24
NU	Hardy Pass from Taylor 75-yards (Swift Pass Good) 04:13 **Drive:** 4 plays 80 yds 2:12	25	32
KU	Murph Pass from Barmann 26-yards (Webb Kick) 00:46 **Drive:** 11 plays 81 yds 3:19	32	32

Overtime

NU	Glenn 1-yard Run (Congdon Kick) **Drive:** 3 plays 25 yds	32	39

TEAM STATS

	KU	NU
Total First Downs	26	16
Rushing	8	5
Passing	17	11
Penalty	1	0
Rushing Attempts	40	32
Yards Gained Rushing	179	136
Yards Lost Rushing	10	20
Net Yards Rushing	169	116
Net Yards Passing	405	395
Passes Attempted	54	33
Passes Completed	27	15
Had Intercepted	3	0
Percent Completion	50.0%	45.5%
Yards per Attempt	7.5	12.0
Yards per Completion	15.0	26.3
Total Offensive Plays	94	65
Total Net Yards	574	511
Avg. Gain Per Play	6.1	7.9
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-1	4-3
Penalties: No-Yards	5-25	5-35
Punts: No-Yards	6-265	7-269
Avg. Per Punt	44.2	38.4
Avg. Net Punt	37.8	38.4
Punt Returns: No-Yards	0-0	2-38
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	6-91	1-17
Interception Returns: No-Yards	0-0	3-19
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	1-2	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	33:29	26:31
Third-Down Conversions	6-18	3-12
Percentage	33.3%	25.0%
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-2	0-0
Percentage	50.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	2-12	0-0



Nebraska linebacker Corey McKeon (13) jars the football loose from KU quarterback Adam Barmann (7) in the second quarter. Tierre Green recovered at the NU 2-yard line.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

KANSAS

RUSHING

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Cornish	31	154	9	145	4.7	1	41
McAnderson	5	19	0	19	3.8	1	10
Barmann	4	6	1	5	1.2	0	3
Total	**40**	**179**	**10**	**169**	**4.2**	**2**	**41**

PASSING

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Barmann	54	27	50.0	3	405	2	46
Total	**54**	**27**	**50.0**	**3**	**405**	**2**	**46**

RECEIVING

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Murph	8	129	1	46
Fields	8	108	0	30
Fine	5	84	1	40
Lamb	1	40	0	40
Henry	3	28	0	10
Cornish	1	8	0	8
McAnderson	1	8	0	8
Total	**27**	**405**	**2**	**46**

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Herford	4	59	0	27
McAnderson	1	18	0	18
Sharp	1	14	0	14
Total	**6**	**91**	**0**	**27**

PUNTING

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Tucker	6	44.2	60	0	1	0	2	2
Total	**6**	**44.2**	**60**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**2**

FIELD GOALS

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Webb	2	2	35	0
Total	**2**	**2**	**35**	**0**

DEFENSE

	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
McClinton	4	3	7	2-6	1-4	0	0	0
Rivera	3	4	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Brorsen	3	3	6	1-8	1-8	0	1	1
Kemp	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Mortensen	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	1	1
Washington	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	2	1	0
Bueltel	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Fine	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Talib	3	0	3	1-2	0-0	2	0	1
Webb	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Wilder	0	3	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Como	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Larson	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Holt	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Muhammed	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Schermer	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thornton	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0

NEBRASKA

RUSHING

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Lucky	13	42	2	40	3.1	0	6
Glenn	7	33	0	33	4.7	1	11
Wilson	4	33	0	33	8.2	0	24
Jackson	4	28	0	28	7.0	0	13
Hardy	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	0
TEAM	1	0	4	-4	-4.0	0	0
Taylor	2	0	12	-12	-6.0	0	0
Total	**32**	**136**	**20**	**116**	**3.6**	**1**	**24**

PASSING

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Taylor	33	15	45.5	0	395	4	78
Total	**33**	**15**	**45.5**	**0**	**395**	**4**	**78**

RECEIVING

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Hardy	3	159	2	78
Nunn	3	98	1	75
Purify	4	91	0	36
Swift	2	25	0	21
Lucky	2	16	0	13
Peterson	1	6	1	6
Total	**15**	**395**	**4**	**78**

PUNT RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Nunn	1	29	0	29
Grixby	1	9	0	9
Total	**2**	**38**	**0**	**29**

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Jackson	1	17	0	17
Total	**1**	**17**	**0**	**17**

PUNTING

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Titchener	7	38.4	51	0	0	5	1	3
Total	**7**	**38.4**	**51**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**1**	**3**

FIELD GOALS

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Congdon	1	1	21	0
Total	**1**	**1**	**21**	**0**

DEFENSE

	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
McKeon	3	6	9	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Bradley	5	3	8	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Carriker	3	5	8	2.5-3	0-0	0	0	0
Cryer	4	3	7	2-4	0-0	1	0	0
Green	4	3	7	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	1
Jones	5	2	7	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Ruud	2	4	6	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Shanle	6	0	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Brandenburgh	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Grixby	4	0	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Dagunduro	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Erickson	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Byford	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Culbert	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Eisenhart	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thenarse	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Turner	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Young	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Shanle	2	19	0	19
Jones	1	0	0	0
Total	**3**	**19**	**0**	**19**

2006 Season Stats

RUSHING

	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	5	64	407	2	405	6.3	5	51	81.0
Wilson, Kenny	5	66	324	13	311	4.7	3	30	62.2
Glenn, Cody	4	31	168	0	168	5.4	4	18	42.0
Jackson, Brandon	5	27	161	7	154	5.7	2	26	30.8
Nunn, Terrence	5	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Ganz, Joe	3	2	10	12	-2	-1.0	0	10	-0.7
Hardy, Frantz	5	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	0	-0.4
Taylor, Zac	5	15	29	33	-4	-0.3	1	8	-0.8

PASSING

	G	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	YD/G
Taylor, Zac	5	122	78	63.9	2	1267	12	78	253.4
Ganz, Joe	3	12	6	50.0	0	93	2	31	31.0
Titchener, Dan	5	1	1	100.0	0	28	0	28	5.6

RECEIVING

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	5	17	307	18.1	1	75	61.4
Purify, Maurice	5	9	225	25.0	1	42	45.0
Hardy, Frantz	5	7	213	30.4	3	78	42.6
Swift, Nate	5	8	150	18.8	0	49	30.0
Herian, Matt	5	8	135	16.9	2	36	27.0
Peterson, Todd	5	5	95	19.0	1	31	19.0
Lucky, Marlon	5	8	85	10.6	0	19	17.0
Jackson, Brandon	5	7	61	8.7	0	22	12.2
Phillips, J.B.	5	7	41	5.9	2	10	8.2
Teafatiller, Hunter	5	1	29	29.0	1	29	5.8
Mueller, Josh	5	3	18	6.0	1	8	3.6
Senske, Matt	3	2	13	6.5	1	12	4.3
Todd, Dane	5	2	9	4.5	1	8	1.8
Erickson, Dan	5	1	7	7.0	0	7	1.4

PUNT RETURNS LEADERS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	5	14	136	9.7	0	31	27.2
Swift, Nate	5	2	49	24.5	0	33	9.8

KICKOFF RETURNS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Green, Tierre	5	3	59	19.7	0	23	11.8
Jackson, Brandon	5	2	32	16.0	0	17	6.4
Wilson, Kenny	5	1	27	27.0	0	27	5.4

PUNTING

	G	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Titchener, Dan	5	18	39.0	53	0	1	8	3	6

FIELD GOALS

	G	Att	Made	Lg	Blkd
Congdon, Jordan	5	3	2	38	0

DEFENSE LEADERS

	G	Tack	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
McKeon, Corey	5	13	17	30	1-2	0-0	2	1	1
Bradley, Stewart	5	13	16	29	2-10	0-0	1	1	2
Green, Tierre	5	14	14	28	0-1	0-0	0	0	1
Ruud, Bo	5	9	15	24	1-1	0-0	0	1	0
Carriker, Adam	5	8	14	22	5-14	1-7	2	0	0
Grixby, Cortney	5	17	4	21	0-0	0-0	3	1	1
Jones, Andre	5	12	7	19	0-0	0-0	4	0	0
Shanle, Andrew	5	12	6	18	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Cryer, Barry	5	7	6	13	3-12	0-4	1	0	0
Moore, Jay	5	7	6	13	4-22	2-16	1	0	0
Steinkuhler, Ty	5	10	2	12	1-4	0-0	0	1	0
Brandenburgh, L.	5	7	3	10	1-3	0-0	0	0	0
Erickson, Dan	5	5	5	10	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Octavien, Steve	3	5	4	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh, Ndamukong	5	5	4	9	3-27	2-23	0	1	0
Turner, Barry	5	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	1

TEAM STATISTICS	NU	OPP
Total First Downs	111	82
Rushing	53	32
Passing	55	46
Penalty	3	4
Total Net Yards	2401	1605
Total Plays	347	316
Yards Per Play	6.9	5.1
Yards Per Game	480.2	321.0
Rushing Attempts-Yards	212-1013	166-613
Yards Per Attempt	4.8	3.7
Yards Per Game	202.6	122.6
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	135-85-2	150-80-5
Passing Yards	1388	992
Yards Per Completion	16.3	12.4
Yards Per Game	277.6	198.4
Punting: No.-Avg.	18-39.0	33-39.2
Fumbles-Lost	10-6	19-8
Penalties-Yards	26-216	33-222
Sacks By-Yds. Lost	7-60	5-40
Third-Down Conversions	33-65	24-71
Conversion Pct.	50.8	33.8
Fourth-Down Conversions	6-9	4-8
Conversion Pct.	66.7	50.0
Avg. Time Of Possession	32:02	27:58

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Nebraska	55	49	35	64	7	210
Opponents	7	27	16	27	0	77

2006 Results, Schedule

1	Sept. 2	Louisiana Tech (1-3), W 49-10	1-0
2	Sept. 9	Nicholls State (1-3), W 56-7	2-0
3	Sept. 16	@USC (4-0), L 28-10	2-1
4	Sept. 23	Troy (1-4), W 56-0	3-1
5	Sept. 30	Kansas (3-2), W 39-32 (OT)	4-1
6	Oct. 7	@Iowa State (3-2), 7 p.m., ABC	
7	Oct. 14	@Kansas State (3-2), TBA	
8	Oct. 21	Texas (4-1), TBA	
9	Oct. 28	@Oklahoma State (3-1), TBA	
10	Nov. 4	Missouri (5-0), TBA (Homecoming)	
11	Nov. 11	@Texas A&M (4-1), TBA	
12	Nov. 24	Colorado (0-5), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
	Dec. 2	Big 12 Championship at Kansas City, Mo., 7 p.m., ABC	

Scouting Report

Game 6

At Iowa State
Oct. 7

Location: Ames, Iowa
Enrollment: 23,709
2006 record: 3-2
Coach: Dan McCarney, 12th year
Series: Nebraska leads 82-16-2

7 p.m., ABC Regional
Jack Trice Stadium, Ames, Iowa

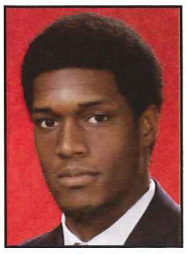
Quick Facts

Iowa State rallied from deficits of 21-7 and 27-21 to defeat Northern Iowa 28-27 and survive a major scare from the Panthers, the Division I-AA national runners-up last year.

The ISU-UNI game drew a record crowd of 55,518 at Jack Trice Stadium, bettering the record of 54,475 set vs. Nebraska in 1990.

Wide receiver Todd Blythe caught his 23rd career TD pass, extending his school record. He has 11 catches for 239 yards in two games against NU.

Cyclone to Watch



Junior quarterback Bret Meyer, a preseason first-team All-Big 12 selection by Sporting News, has completed 63.1 percent of his passes for 1,186 yards and seven touchdowns. He completed 24-of-29 for 323 yards and two TDs against Northern Iowa. Meyer passed for 317 yards against Nebraska last season in Lincoln.

Big 12 At A Glance

	North W	L	W	L		South W	L	W	L
Missouri	1	0	5	0	Texas	1	0	4	1
Nebraska	1	0	4	1	Texas Tech	1	0	4	1
Kansas	0	1	3	2	Baylor	1	0	2	3
Kansas St.	0	1	3	2	Oklahoma	0	0	3	1
Iowa State	0	1	3	2	Okla. St.	0	0	3	1
Colorado	0	1	0	5	Texas A&M	0	1	4	1

Saturday, Sept. 30

Nebraska 39, Kansas 32, ot
Missouri 28, Colorado 13
Iowa State 28, Northern Iowa 27
Baylor 17, Kansas State 3
Texas Tech 31, Texas A&M 27
Texas 56, Sam Houston State 3

On Deck

At Kansas State
Oct. 14

Location: Manhattan, Kan.
Enrollment: 23,050
2006 record: 3-2
Coach: Ron Prince, first year
Series: Nebraska leads 73-15-2

Time TBA
KSU Stadium, Manhattan, Kan.

Tentative 2-Deeps

Nebraska Offense

WRX	87	Nate Swift*	6-2	195	So.
	7	Frantz Hardy*	6-1	180	Jr.
LT	54	Chris Patrick*	6-4	290	Jr.
	76	Lydon Murtha*	6-7	315	So.
LG	65	Greg Austin***	6-1	295	Sr.
	62	Andy Christensen	6-3	300	So.
C	59	Brett Byford	6-3	300	Jr.
	62	Andy Christensen	6-3	300	So.
RG	61	Mike Huff*	6-4	305	So.
	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	280	Fr.
RT	70	Matt Slauson*	6-5	335	So.
	77	Carl Nicks	6-5	325	Jr.
TE	11	Matt Herian***	6-5	245	Sr.
	81	Josh Mueller**	6-5	265	Jr.
WRZ	83	Terrence Nunn**	6-0	185	Jr.
	17	Todd Peterson*	6-4	210	So.
QB	13	Zac Taylor*	6-2	210	Sr.
	8	Joe Ganz	6-1	200	So.
FB	41	Dane Todd***	5-11	235	Sr.
	42	Matt Senske	6-3	235	Jr.
IB	20	Marlon Lucky*	6-0	210	So.
	27	Kenny Wilson	6-0	220	Jr.
PK	29	Jordan Congdon*	5-11	175	So.

Nebraska Defense

DE	44	Jay Moore*	6-4	280	Sr.
	99	Barry Turner*	6-3	250	So.
NT	54	Ola Dagunduro*	6-2	300	Sr.
	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	315	So.
DT	94	Barry Cryer*	6-2	280	Sr.
	43	Ty Steinkuhler*	6-3	280	So.
DE	90	Adam Carriker***	6-6	295	Sr.
	98	Zach Potter*	6-7	280	So.
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley***	6-4	245	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers*	6-4	240	So.
MLB	13	Corey McKeon*	6-1	225	Jr.
	40	Lance Brandenburgh**	6-1	230	Jr.
WLB	51	Bo Ruud**	6-3	235	Jr.
	40	Lance Brandenburgh**	6-1	230	Jr.
SCB	25	Andre Jones	6-0	195	Jr.
	4	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	185	Fr.
SS	30	Tierre Green**	6-1	200	Jr.
	6	Major Culbert	6-0	200	Fr.
FS	8	Andrew Shanle***	6-1	210	Sr.
	9	Bryan Wilson	6-1	200	Jr.
WCB	2	Cortney Grixby**	5-9	170	Jr.
	23	Corey Young	6-0	195	Fr.
P	97	Dan Titchener	6-0	200	So.

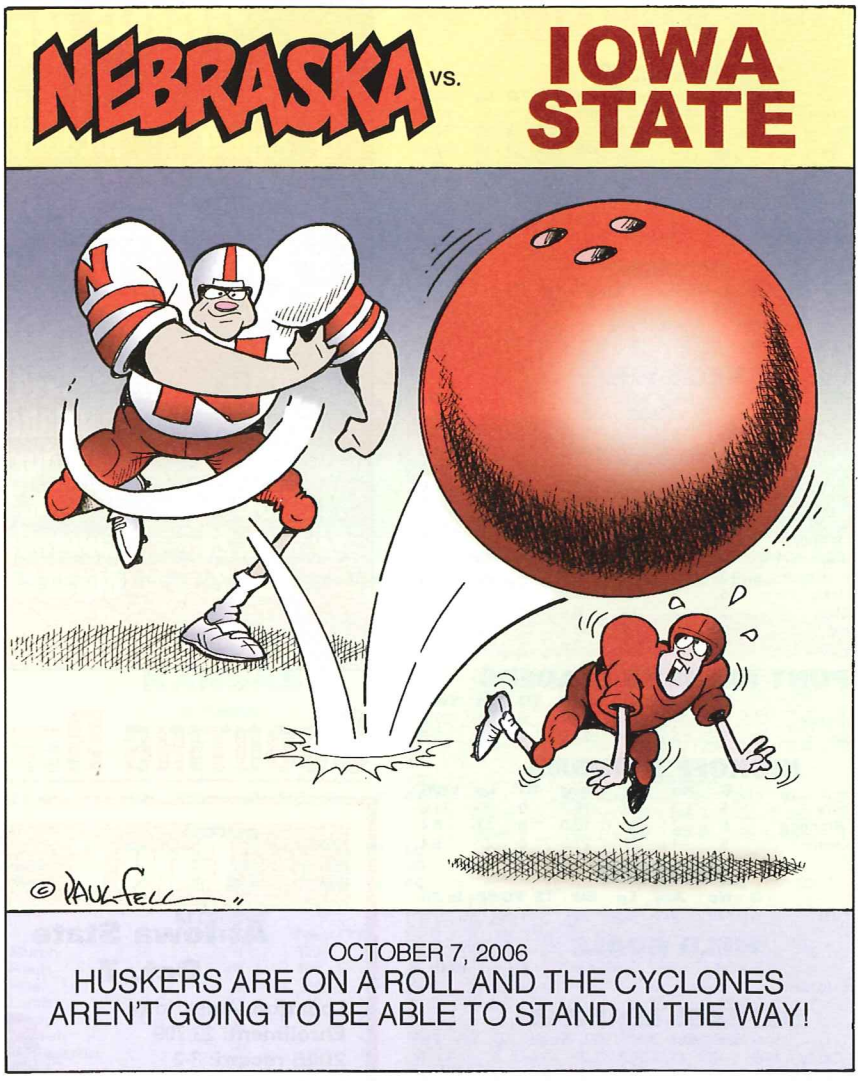
Iowa State Offense

WR	81	Jon Davis***	6-4	203	Sr.
	82	Marquis Hamilton	6-3	220	RFr.
LT	69	Scott Fisher*	6-7	335	Sr.
	76	Lee Tibbs	6-4	325	Jr.
LG	58	Seth Zehr***	6-6	300	Sr.
	77	Paul Fisher	6-7	325	Sr.
C	63	Scott Stephenson*	6-4	305	Sr.
	78	Bastian Schober	6-2	315	Jr.
RG	70	Tom Schmeling	6-3	290	So.
	73	Reggie Stephens	6-4	320	RFr.
RT	75	Aaron Brant***	6-7	320	Sr.
	77	Paul Fisher	6-7	325	Sr.
TE	41	Ben Barkema**	6-3	250	Jr.
	16	Walter Nickel*	6-3	250	Sr.
WR	8	Austin Flynn***	6-1	200	Sr.
	32	Milan Moses**	6-1	185	Jr.
WR	1	Todd Blythe**	6-5	210	Jr.
	5	R.J. Sumrall	6-1	200	So.
QB	7	Bret Meyer**	6-3	208	Jr.
	4	Austin Arnaud	6-2	220	Fr.
IB	27	Stevie Hicks***	6-1	220	Sr.
	6	Jason Scales*	5-9	209	So.
K	37	Bret Culbertson**	6-6	179	Jr.

Iowa State Defense

RU	29	Rashawn Parker	6-0	245	Fr.
	90	John Machado	6-3	245	Sr.
NG	62	Nate Frere	6-2	295	Fr.
	71	Ahtyba Rubin	6-3	320	Jr.
DT	52	Brent Curvey***	6-0	295	Sr.
	93	Bryce Braaksma	6-4	270	Jr.
E	40	Shawn Moorehead**	6-4	250	Sr.
	94	Stephon Dale	6-3	260	RFr.
SLB	10	Adam Carper*	6-3	225	So.
	43	Fre Garrin	6-1	220	Fr.
MLB	17	Tyrone McKenzie	6-2	230	So.
	54	Jessie Smith	6-0	230	RFr.
WLB	15	Alvin Bowen*	6-2	220	Jr.
	32	Josh Raven	5-11	215	RFr.
LCB	4	DeAndre Jackson***	6-0	195	Sr.
	7	Drenard Williams	5-10	170	Fr.
SS	21	Caleb Berg**	6-1	200	Jr.
	3	Ryan Baum***	5-10	186	Sr.
FS	16	Jon Banks	6-3	220	Jr.
	20	Brandon Hunley*	5-11	195	So.
RCB	11	Chris Singleton*	5-10	191	So.
	23	Steve Johnson	6-1	197	RFr.
P	13	Mike Brandtner	6-1	198	RFr.

The Paul Fell Prediction



OCTOBER 7, 2006

HUSKERS ARE ON A ROLL AND THE CYCLONES AREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO STAND IN THE WAY!

Picks

Oct. 7


Brian Hill
Editor


Mike Babcock
Cont. Editor


Terry Douglass
G.I. Independent


Sean Callahan
Rivals.com


John Bishop
KLIN Radio
(Guest)

Nebraska @Iowa State	Nebraska 34, Iowa State 30	Nebraska 31, Iowa State 27	Nebraska 24, Iowa State 21	Nebraska 37, Iowa State 28	Nebraska 35, Iowa State 31
Texas @Oklahoma	Oklahoma 27, Texas 24	Texas 21, Oklahoma 15	Texas 20, Oklahoma 10	Texas 28, Oklahoma 27	Oklahoma 24, Texas 20
Missouri @Texas Tech	Texas Tech 30, Missouri 23	Texas Tech 28, Missouri 24	Texas Tech 35, Missouri 13	Texas Tech 31, Missouri 27	Missouri 28, Texas Tech 21
LSU @Florida	Florida 15, LSU 13	Florida 10, LSU 7	Florida 17, LSU 7	Florida 19, LSU 17	Florida 14, LSU 13
Last Week	**3-1**	**4-0**	**4-0**	**4-0**	**4-0**
Season	**14-6**	**20-0**	**19-1**	**19-1**	**19-1**

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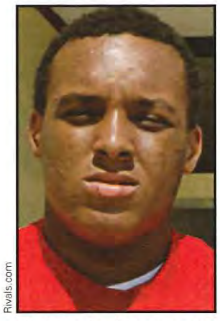
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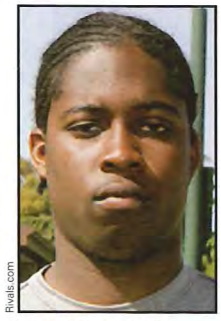
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NU Seeking D-Line Depth

Top prospects from California have Nebraska among favorites

By Rick Shaw





Nebraska has a commitment from defensive tackle Demetrious Davis (left). Da'John Harris (right) is another top prospect considering the Huskers.

Perhaps no position will feel the impact of graduation in 2007 quite as much as the defensive interior.

The Huskers will lose both of their current starters at defensive tackle, Barry Cryer and Ola Dagunduro, at the end of this season. Though talented underclassmen Ndamukong Suh, Ty Steinkuhler, Brandon Johnson and Seth Jensen wait in the wings, the Nebraska coaching staff will look to sign, at least, two to three players in the defensive interior to shore up any depth concerns heading into next fall.

The Huskers secured a commitment from one talented defensive tackle prospect in early June. Demetrious Davis (6-foot-2, 286 pounds) out of St. Joseph (Benton), Mo., delivered his pledge to Nebraska coaches after considering offers from Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kansas State and Missouri. Rated the No. 8 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com, Davis has the strength (420-pound bench press/575-pound squat) and quickness (5.22-second 40-yard dash) to contribute early in his career in Lincoln.

Nebraska is hoping it can get a couple of big-time defensive tackle prospects to join Davis on the Husker commit list before February signing day. A number of top prospects from the talent-rich state of California currently consider the Huskers among their list of favorites.

Da'John Harris of Gardena (Serra), Calif., is widely considered to be one of the top defensive line prospects in the country in 2006. Rated the No. 1 defensive tackle prospect in the state (four stars), by Rivals.com, Harris has said he plans to take one of his official

NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2007

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	40	Hometown (School)
Anthony Blue	DB	5-10	172	4.57	Cedar Hill, Texas
Quentin Castille	RB	6-1	234	4.6	La Porte, Texas
Jared Crick	DE	6-6	245	4.8	Cozad, Neb.
Demetrious Davis	DT	6-2	286	5.22	St. Joseph, Mo. (Benton)
Ian Harris	TE	6-3	217	4.76	San Antonio, Texas (Churchill)
Ryan Hill	TE	6-3	230	4.7	Arvada, Colo. (West)
Niles Paul	WR	6-2	210	4.4	Omaha, Neb. (North)
Shawn Sullivan	DB	5-11	182	4.4	Brenham, Texas
DeAndre West	DB	6-1	195	4.4	Oakland, Calif. (Wilson Prep)
Patrick Witt	QB	6-4	215	4.95	Wylie, Texas

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visits to Lincoln sometime this fall.

"I'm trying to set up some official visits, and for sure I think I'll be taking them to Miami and Nebraska," Harris said.

"Nebraska has a very, very good football program. They also have a good academic tradition with their athletes. I like their school. I'm planning to get out there sometime during the season."

Harris, who also claims offers from Miami, Southern California, Michigan, Oregon, UCLA, Washington and others may currently be leaning in the direction of the Trojans and Wolverines. However, he's already visited the USC campus and took an early September official visit to Ann Arbor, so, with a visit, Nebraska should have an opportunity to make up some ground.

Harris earned first-team all-league and first-team all-area honors as a junior after racking up 40 tackles and seven sacks.

One of the top junior college talents in the country, Andy Maples, also has Nebraska on his short list. Rated the No. 12 junior college prospect in the country by Rivals.com (four stars), the 6-3, 300-pound blue-chipper out of the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Calif., tallied five sacks as a freshman in 2005.

With a good blend of speed (5.1-second 40) and strength (370-pound bench press), Maples has grabbed the attention of college recruiters from all over the country. Missouri, UAB, Mississippi State, Texas Tech, Washington State and Nebraska have all extended scholarship offers.

Missouri appears to be the early front-runner for Maples' services, as teammate and defensive end George Kearse already announced his intentions of enrolling in Columbia in 2007. However, the Huskers are in good position to get a visit this fall.

Another junior college blue-chipper, Joseph Townsend, was scheduled to visit the Nebraska campus on Sept. 29. If the trip went smoothly, there was a good chance the 6-4, 295-pound defensive tackle out of the College of the Foothills in Los Altos, Calif., would leave Lincoln as a Husker commit.

"I like the D-line coach (John Blake) over there. He has all of the credentials. He has all the rings and has

RECRUITING NOTES

Several Players Reschedule Visits

By Sean Stevens

What looked to be a large group of official visitors for the Troy game ended up being rather small.

Linebacker Austin Stafford and running back Troy Evans of Hayward, Calif., had to reschedule their visits because neither had taken the SAT exam.

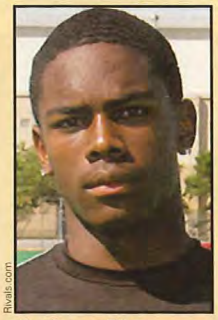
"No, they won't be coming because they haven't taken the SAT yet," Hayward coach Casey Moreno said. "It's an NCAA rule that recruits can't take official visits until they take the test."

Stafford and Evans are now scheduled to be in Lincoln for the Nov. 4 Missouri game instead.

Defensive tackle Rolando Melancon of Lutcher, La. also had to cancel his trip due to grade concerns. The 6-foot-2, 260-pound member of the Rivals100 has not yet rescheduled his visit.

Cedar Hill, Texas, wide receiver William Cole rescheduled due to a death in the family. The teammate of Husker cornerback commit Anthony Blue was to be in town for the Kansas game instead.

● Blue was one of two official visitors for the Troy game. Before the visit, he mentioned possibly taking additional official visits.


Rivals.com

Anthony Blue

"Since I committed, some schools have backed off, but I still get a lot of mail and text messages from other schools. I'm still not sure whether I'll take any other visits or not," he said.

After the trip he was 100 percent Husker.

"It went real good," Blue said. "The stamp is on now. It was the whole trip . . . from the Tunnel Walk on."

Also in town was defensive end Christian Tupou of Sacramento, Calif. The 6-2, 260-pounder said he was impressed.

"The facilities were really nice. All the football stuff is brand new. Everything was clean and up to date," he said. "I don't even know what to say. I can't even explain it . . . the 'Sea or Red' and all that. It was pretty impressive."

Despite that high praise, he rated the trip a "7 or 8" on a scale of 1-10.

"I didn't commit," he said. "I'm still open and will take the rest of my visits. The purpose of these visits is to find out more about the schools. I did that with Nebraska, and it was real positive."

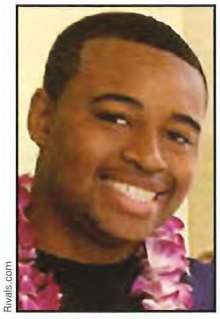
A commitment from Tupou would be a positive development for Nebraska, as it attempts to tap into the Polynesian pipeline which seemingly went dry when Toniu Fonoti and Dominic Raiola left Lincoln early for the NFL.

● The Sept. 30 Kansas game was to be the first really big visit weekend of the year. Prospects scheduled to be in town included the aforementioned Cole, Rivals.com four-star linebacker Blake Lawrence of Shawnee Mission, Kan., four-star Juco cornerback Armando Murillo of Eastern Arizona Community College, three-star defensive end Jared Glover of Bixby, Okla., three-star defensive tackle Joseph Townsend of Foothills College in California (the younger brother of former Husker Larry Townsend), three-star defensive back Anthony Wright of Compton, Calif., and linebacker Larry Asante (four-star) and safety Gary Chandler (four-star) from Butler County Community College in Kansas.

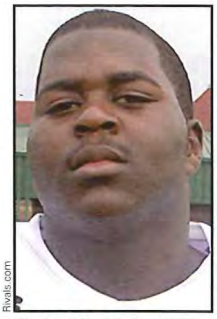
The most likely prospects to commit are Glover and Townsend. Lawrence has had his choices down to NU and KU for months now and will take his official visit to Kansas the next week before announcing his decision. ■

coached all of the best players. Basically, Nebraska is like a dream fit really."

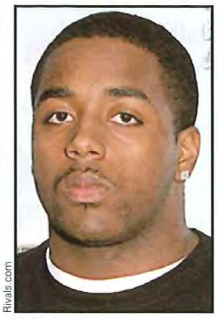
Townsend, rated the No. 38 junior college prospect in the country (three stars) by Rivals.com, has his list of colleges pretty much narrowed down to Nebraska and Washington State. He originally signed with the Cougars out of high school. However, Townsend's older brother, Larry, who played for the Huskers in the mid-1990s, has been encouraging him to follow in his footsteps.



Joseph Townsend



Rolando Melancon



Chris Perry

Rolando Melancon is yet another four-star defensive tackle looking hard at Nebraska. The 6-2, 260-pound blue-chipper out of Lutcher, La., is looking to visit Nebraska sometime during November.

"I heard it's real nice out there and the fans get real excited about the football team," Melancon said, "so I'm looking forward to getting over there and seeing it for myself.

"I talk to coach Blake, coach (Jay) Norvell, and coach (Bill) Callahan sends me text messages every day. They stay pretty close, and that's why they're one of my top schools."

Melancon, rated the No. 91 prospect in the country by Rivals.com, also lists Michigan, Tennessee and LSU among his favorites. He utilized his outstanding athleticism (4.78 40), to earn first-team all-state honors in 2005, tallying 75 tackles, three sacks and 16 tackles for loss.

Melancon won't be the only big-time defensive tackle prospect visiting Lincoln in November. Chris Perry, a 6-3, 319-pound defensive lineman from Keller (Fossil Ridge), Texas, is scheduled to visit Nebraska on Nov. 3.

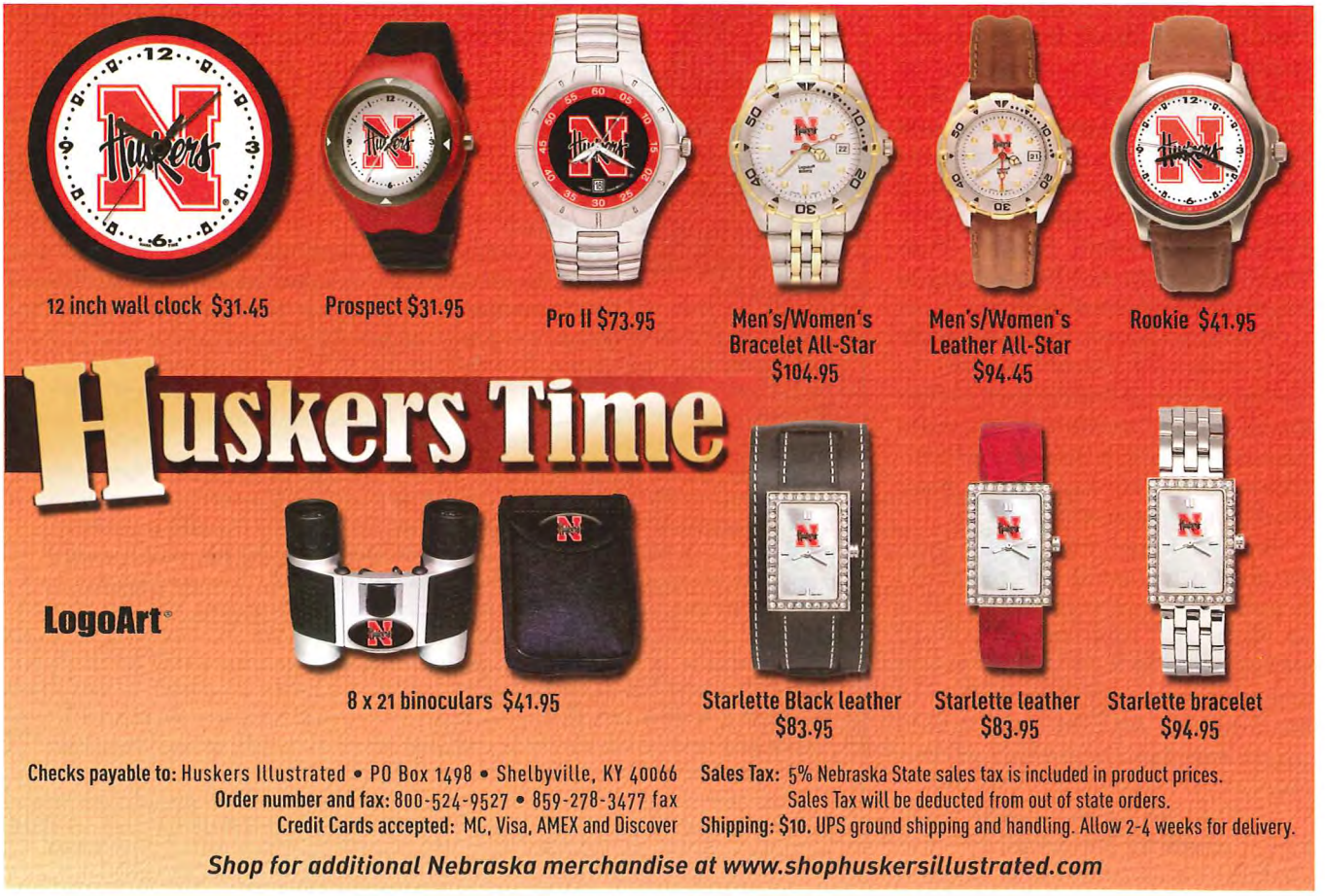
"With Nebraska, I'm just really cool with coach John Blake," Perry said. "He's got a great resume with the Dallas Cowboys and at Nebraska, their D-line is nice. I'm a big technique guy, and I know I could be coached well with coach Blake at Nebraska.

"Nebraska is a good team with a good history, and they play in the Big 12, which is a great conference. They have good chemistry, which I like, and they're like Miami because they always have a winning team."

Originally a commitment to Miami, Perry has recently reopened his recruitment and plans to visit both Nebraska and Oklahoma. Rated the No. 22 player in the state by Rivals.com, Perry also holds offers from Florida, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma State and Arkansas, among others.

Possessing outstanding quickness (5.1 40) to go along with freakish strength (360-pound bench press/610-pound squat), Perry could go a long way toward helping Nebraska plug up the middle of its defensive line for the future. ■

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Still Highs

Perfectionist Gates looking for more consistency on the court

By Todd Henrichs

For a self-proclaimed perfectionist like Amanda Gates, the ups and downs of her Nebraska volleyball career must be in some ways dizzying.

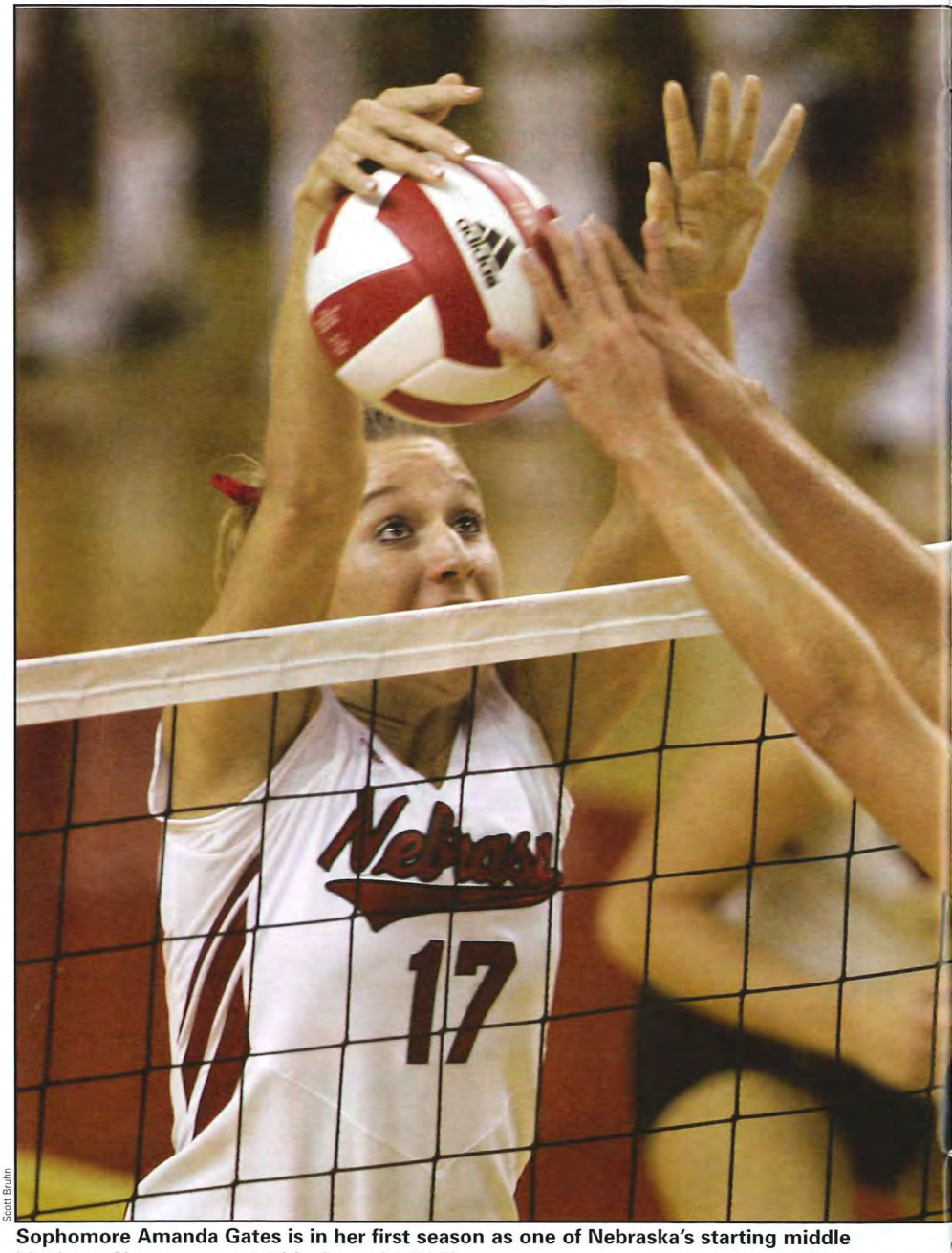
A 4.0 student in the classroom and a stable presence who coach John Cook considers as one of the hardest workers in his program, Gates has displayed both flashes of brilliance and frustration in her first two seasons with the Huskers.

As a freshman, Gates was immediately thrust into the limelight, playing a key role in the season-opening AVCA Showcase while Tracy Stalls recovered from injury. Facing the likes of Hawaii and Stanford in front of 10,000 fans, Gates never buckled under the pressure and managed to celebrate two big Nebraska victories.

Yet once Stalls returned to the lineup, Gates faded into the background, playing a key role in practice but rarely finding herself on the court during matches. In Big 12 play, Gates appeared in only two games, recording one kill and one block.

"Definitely coming off of playing and then not playing, I had to fit back in with the team and try to find my role," Gates said, reflecting on last season. "It was hard sometimes.

"But as I went through the season, I definitely gained a lot of maturity as a player. Taking feedback, taking every drill and every rep I got as being important in making sure I was getting better as a player. I'm still trying to grow as a player today."



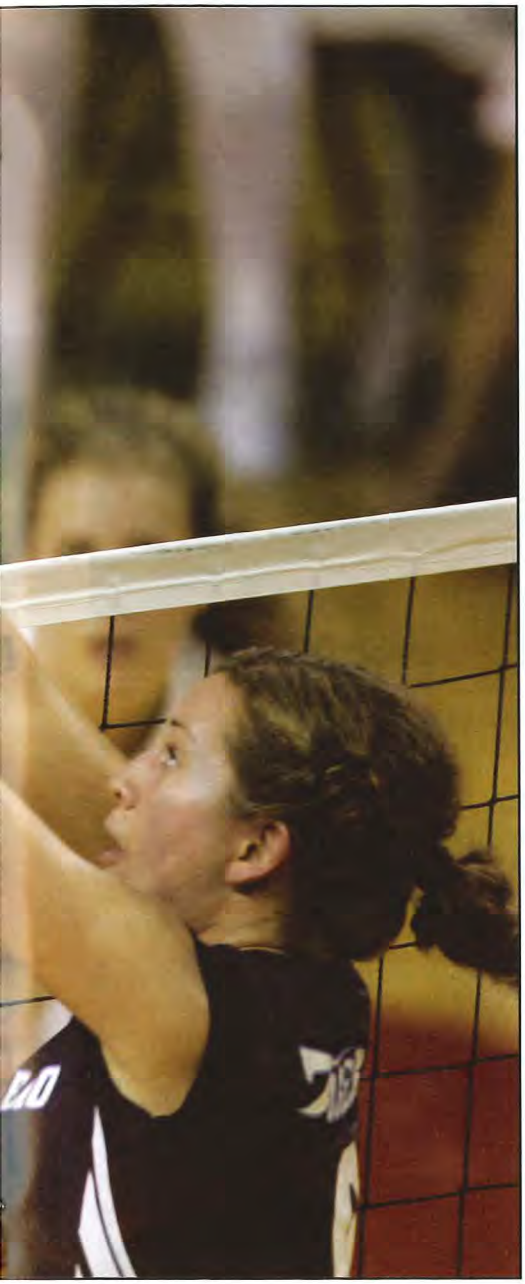
Scott Bruhn

Sophomore Amanda Gates is in her first season as one of Nebraska's starting middle blockers. She averages 1.4 blocks and 1.2 kills per game.

And there are still highs and lows, Gates says, even as she began her sophomore season as the starter. In her promising debut against San Diego, Gates scored 10 blocks in the Huskers' three-game win, in that one night nearly equaling her season total for blocks last season.

But on other nights, Gates has struggled to score blocks, and offensively, the Columbus High School graduate has yet to break through as a significant threat with her swing.

and Lows



Through 28 games this season, Gates had only 32 kills. And at .156, her efficiency number lagged below what is common for outside hitters who get more sets and are more often challenged by double blocks across the net.

"I need to be an offensive threat so we don't always have two blockers up on our hitters," Gates said. "I need to be a presence at the net, and offensively, I need to put the ball away. When I get set, I need to take the opportunity and make the most of it."

Making the most of life off the court isn't nearly the struggle for Gates. A multi-sport athlete in high school, Gates was renowned for her wide-ranging talents, everything from playing the clarinet in the school's band to dance classes to covering sports for the student newspaper.

No one could do it better, much like the person who Gates is attempting to follow on the volleyball court at Nebraska. Melissa Elmer finished her career as Nebraska's all-time leader in blocking.

"The last couple of years, how many bad games did Elmer have?" asked Nebraska head coach John Cook. "I really don't remember many. That's why she is a three-time All-American and such a great player in this program.

"Great players are good every day, and that's what Amanda is working toward."

Gates considers Elmer a great role model and continues to learn from Stalls, now a junior in the Nebraska program.

During the team's training trip to Japan and China last spring, Gates scored 12 blocks in one match, a key in her winning the starting job over freshman Kori Cooper in preseason drills.

Cook says it's a competition that could carry on throughout the season, with Gates being the stronger blocker and Cooper possessing more promise to put balls away at the net. But for top-ranked Nebraska to ultimately contend for a national championship in Omaha come December, Cook says one of those players must emerge as a standout in both areas.

Predictably, Gates says she is doing everything she can to be that player.

"I'm a perfectionist, and I work my butt off all the time," she said. "And when I'm not performing, it's really hard for me to deal with.

"I just have to learn from that and focus on making the biggest impact that I can." ■

Todd Henrichs *covers the Nebraska volleyball team for the Lincoln Journal Star. He can be reached at 473-7439 or thenrichs@journalstar.com*

Results, Schedule

Aug. 29 San Diego	W 3-0

Labor Day Tournament
At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 1 St. Mary's	W 3-0
Sept. 2 Middle Tennessee St.	W 3-0
Sept. 3 Long Beach State	W 3-0

Players Challenge
At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 8 Louisville	W 3-0
Sept. 9 Cal Poly	W 3-0
Sept. 10 Minnesota	W 3-1
Sept. 13 Kansas	W 3-0
Sept. 16 @Oklahoma	W 3-0
Sept. 20 Iowa State	W 3-0
Sept. 23 Texas Tech	W 3-0
Sept. 24 @Creighton	W 3-1
Sept. 30 @Baylor 1 p.m.	
Oct. 4 Kansas State 7 p.m.	
Oct. 7 @Texas A&M 6:30 p.m.	
Oct. 11 @Missouri 6:30 p.m.	
Oct. 14 Colorado 7 p.m.	
Oct. 18 @Texas 6:30 p.m.	
Oct. 25 Missouri 7:30 p.m.	
Oct. 28 @Kansas State 7 p.m.	
Nov. 1 @Texas Tech 7 p.m.	
Nov. 4 Oklahoma TBA	
Nov. 8 @Iowa State 6:30 p.m.	
Nov. 11 @Colorado 8 p.m.	
Nov. 15 Texas A&M 7 p.m.	
Nov. 18 Baylor 7 p.m.	
Nov. 22 @Kansas 7 p.m.	
Nov. 25 Texas 7 p.m.	

Nov. 30-Dec. 3
NCAA First/Second Rounds
At Campus Sites

Dec. 8-9
NCAA Regionals
At Campus Sites

Dec 14-16
NCAA Final Four
At Qwest Center (Omaha, Neb.)



Nebraska Media Relations

Nebraska infielder Kimberly Fuller (right) appeared in eight games as a freshman, starting two.

Second Family

Program's first player from Hawaii is getting more comfortable

By Katelyn Kerkhove

Life without softball wouldn't suit Kimberly Fuller, and neither would life without family.

Luckily, Fuller has found both at Nebraska.

Far from her home of Honolulu, Hawaii — she's the program's first recruit from Hawaii — Fuller said she has not only made friends with her fellow Cornhusker teammates, but they have become a second family to her over the past year.

A sophomore, Fuller expects to contribute as an infielder and designated hitter. The Huskers were 2-2 in their first fall competition at the Bluejay Softball Round Robin tournament in Omaha Sept. 23-24. With only 10 players available to compete and not all being at 100 percent, Fuller said they struggled throughout the weekend.

"I think it was a good start-off for our team," she said. "We did fairly well. I think as a team we battled through everything even though we lost those two games. None of us gave up, and I think that shows our team's potential. It was a good way to see where our team was."

Fuller appeared in all four games over the weekend. Last year as a true freshman, she participated in eight games, starting twice. In her first start against Northern Iowa, as a designated hitter, she walked twice with the bases loaded. She finished the season with two hits in 11 official at-bats, the two RBIs against Northern Iowa and two runs scored. This season, she's looking to improve on the .182 batting average, and be more involved in the action.

With a year under her belt, she should be more comfortable on the field, and with that comfort, she should be more ready to make big plays, according to assistant coach Lori Sippel.

"Honestly, I don't think I've reached the potential I could be at as a great player," Fuller said. "I think that I just have some things to work on still for hitting. I need to be more patient and trust myself more."

If she ever needs more advice than she could get from Nebraska coaches and players, she could ask her family. She comes from a baseball family. Her brother, Aaron, plays for Graceland University in Iowa while her father, Gary, works in professional baseball as a scout for the Texas Rangers.

Fuller thanks her father for getting her into softball, saying that she and her brother usually made fun of their mother for being the least baseball/softball minded in the family.

"My dad has been a really big influence; he's pretty much the person who started both of us playing," Fuller said. "But I give a lot of credit to my brother for me wanting to play at a good D-I school. He's pretty much the type of person that no matter what happens he would always keep pushing. He never settled for anything less."

Homesick only once last year, Fuller said that having her brother close is nice, but they rarely see each other as neither has a car. Fuller's parents also haven't made it to Lincoln since her recruiting trip over a year ago. This season, the Huskers are going to go to Fuller's family instead.

Home only three weeks so far this year, she will take her teammates with her on her next visit as the Huskers will open the spring season by traveling to Honolulu for the Paradise Invitational Feb. 8-11.

"It's one of the things we try and do once every eight years it seems," Sippel said. "It's not something you can necessarily do every year because of the expense, but the competition is great at that tournament, and for Kimbie, she'll finally be able to put her two different worlds together, which will be exciting."

As the Huskers prepare for their season as well as their trip to Hawaii, Fuller said she has plenty of goals to meet personally.

She would like to improve her hitting as well as her defense, but more than anything she wants to continue to mature as a player.

"Honestly, to win a (College) World Series and the Big 12 (title) would be amazing," Fuller said. "But I just want to grow as a player, know the game better and learn it more."

TOURNEY SPLIT

Sophomore right-hander Molly Hill allowed two infield singles and struck out 12 in the Huskers' first victory of the fall, after North Dakota State scored four runs in the final inning to hand them a 4-2 loss in their first game at the Bluejay Round Robin tournament. Freshman Alex Hupp's fourth-inning solo home run was all Hill really needed. Senior right-hander Ashley DeBuhr, a two-time All-Big 12 selection, was working on a shutout against North Dakota State until an error opened the door on the four-run rally. Nebraska avenged the loss in its first game on the second day, 2-0, before falling to host Creighton 4-1 in the final game.

Several Huskers missed the tournament because of injuries, including sophomore Crystal Carwile, who will miss the entire fall schedule following off-season surgery. Carwile led the team with 12 home runs and 41 runs-batted-in in 2006, as Nebraska finished 44-12, the fourth-best winning percentage in school history, and made a 12th consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.

FALL SCHEDULE

Bluejay Round Robin at Omaha

North Dakota State L 4-2
South Dakota State W 1-0
North Dakota State W 2-0
Creighton L 4-1

Oct. 7 *Colorado State (DH)
Oct. 8 *Kansas
*Creighton
Oct. 14 ^Notre Dame
^Illinois-Chicago
Oct. 15 ^Michigan
^Western Michigan

*Big Red Fall Classic, home
^at Worth Fall Classic, South Bend, Ind.

CANADA CONNECTION

Nebraska associate head coach Lori Sippel and former Husker Sheena Lawrick (2003-05) are part of the Canadian National Softball Team that will play in the 2008 Olympics. The team, coached by Sippel, finished fifth at the 2006 World Championships in Beijing, China. Sippel's team finished with a 7-3 record, with Lawrick hitting .320 with a home run, six RBIs, four runs scored and a .520 on-base percentage.

Former NU pitcher Stephanie Skegas (1989-91) was a member of the Greek team at the World Championships. ■

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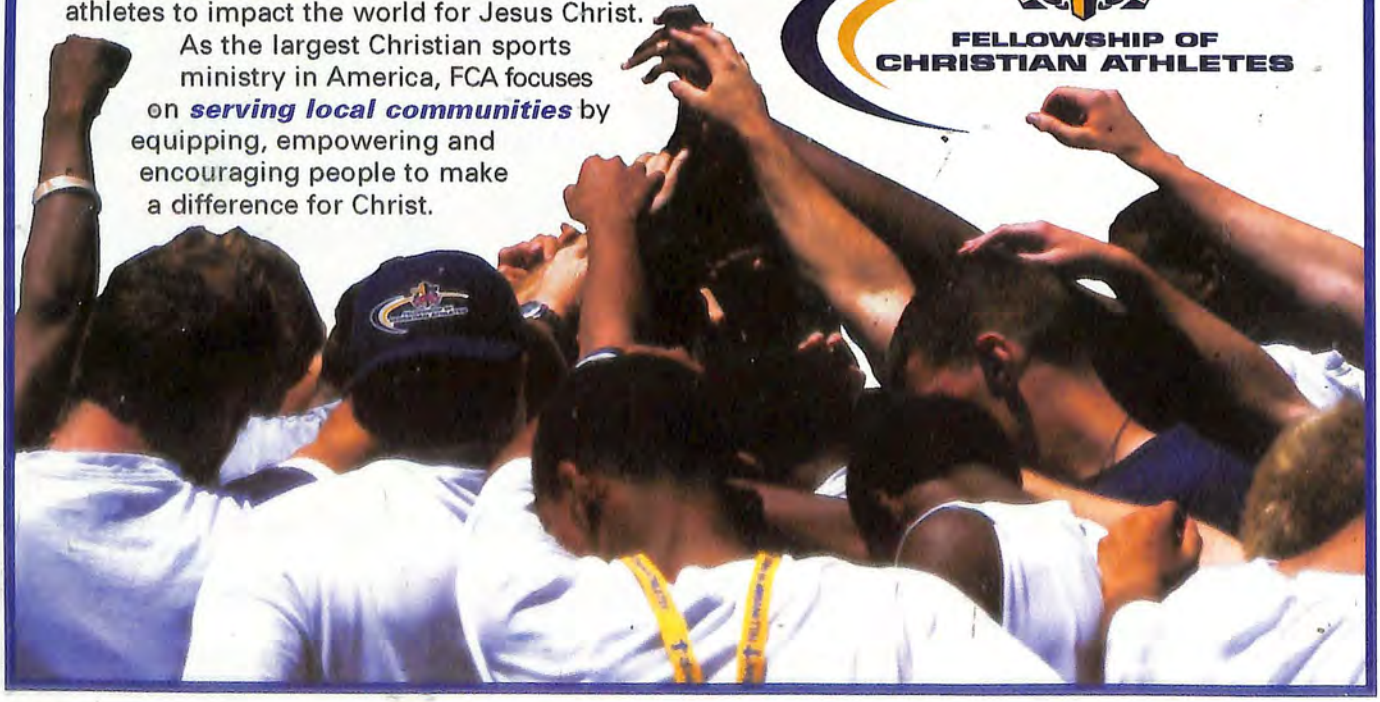
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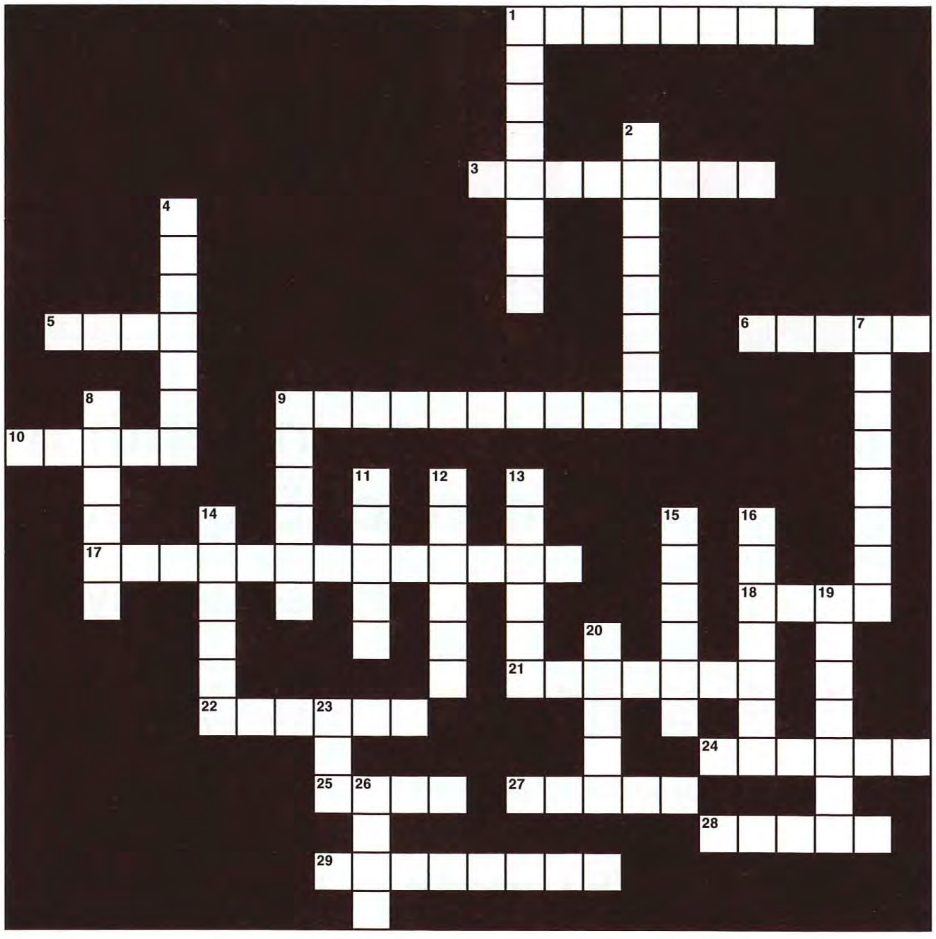
ACROSS

1 Iowa State head coach
3 Homecoming opponent
5 Leading receiver vs. Troy
6 Assistant who graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan
9 Tight end from California
10 Leading rusher vs. Troy
17 Oct. 28 opponent
18 Iowa State campus location
21 Quarterbacks coach
22 Scored first career touchdown vs. Troy
24 Center who replaced Mann
25 Career passing leader
27 Single game rushing leader
28 Wears No. 34 (offense)
29 Defensive lineman from Washington

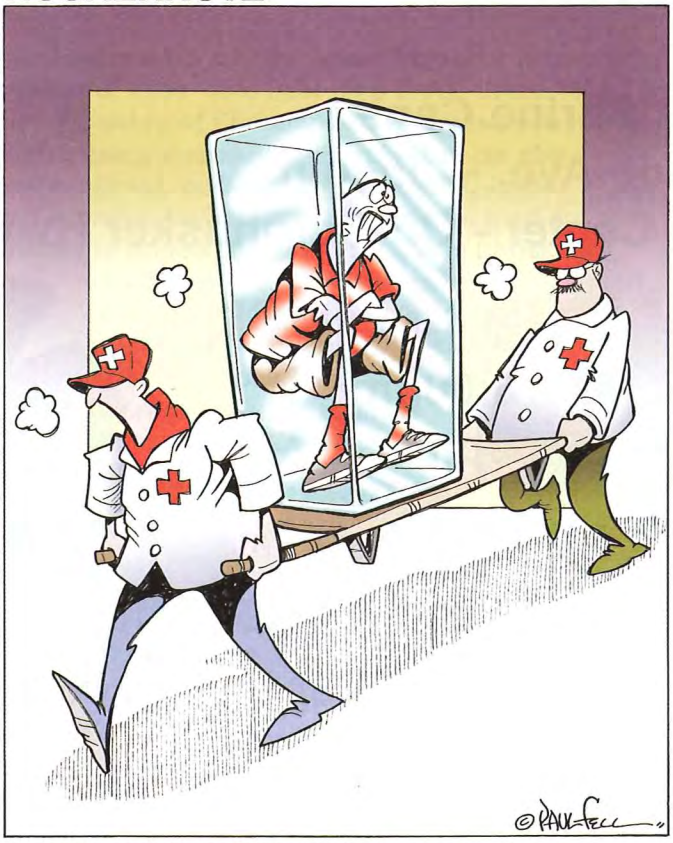
DOWN

1 Chris Patrick's home state
2 Linebackers coach
4 Strength coach
7 Iowa State nickname
8 Wears No. 13 (defense)
9 Wears No. 13 (offense)
11 Former NU quarterback now Iowa State assistant
12 Recruiting coordinator
13 Former NU assistant now at Iowa State
14 Kenny Wilson's home state
15 Season rushing leader
16 Wears No. 34 (defense)
19 Jay Moore's hometown
20 Leading tackler vs. Troy
23 Defensive lineman from Oregon
26 Dennis Wagner's alma mater

Answers in Oct. 14 issue



HUSKERNUTZ



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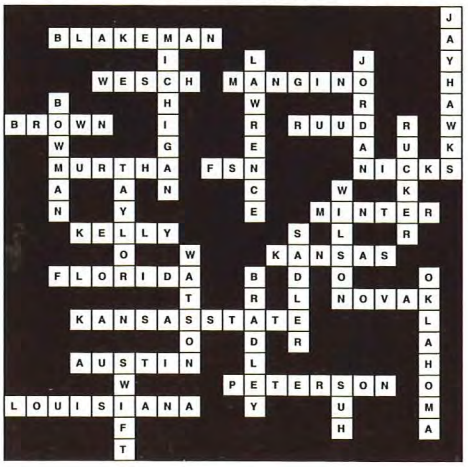
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BASKETBALL NOTES

WHITE SIDELINED


Jamel White

When the Nebraska men's basketball team begins practice Oct. 13, it will do so without Jamel White. The sophomore guard suffered a fractured clavicle in an open-gym workout in late September. He was diving for a loose ball when the injury occurred. Reportedly, he'll be sidelined for a month.

If an injury is going to occur, the preseason "is as good a time as any," first-year coach Doc Sadler said in a sports information release. "I'm a positive type of guy and the positive here is that Jamel may not have dove on the floor for a loose ball during open gym in the past. That says to me that the guys are starting to understand the attitude of how hard they are going to play this year."

White played in every game as a freshman last season, starting 13. He averaged 8.7 points, second most among the returning players and 3.1 rebounds. He shot 35.5 percent from 3-point range.

OTHER INJURIES

White won't be alone on the sideline when practice begins. Sophomores Kyle Marks and Paul Velander also suffered injuries in late September, Marks torn cartilage in a knee, Velander a stress fracture in a foot. Marks was expected to undergo arthroscopic surgery to repair his injury.

"Right now our main priority will be to get them healthy and back on the court," said Sadler.

Marks saw limited action in 24 games last season. Velander played in only two.

SADLER'S FIRST COMMIT

Alex Chapman, a 6-foot-9, 230-pound forward from Canby, Ore., reportedly has made an oral commitment to sign a letter of intent with Nebraska during the early signing period in November. If so, he would become the first member of Sadler's first Cornhusker recruiting class.

Chapman will play this season at Sheridan (Wyo.) College, after missing the second half of his senior season in high school because of a knee injury. He would have three seasons of eligibility at Nebraska. His younger brother Clint (6-10, 245) has made an oral commitment to Texas.

Alex is "really skilled, shoots the ball really well, passes the ball really well, has a real good feel for the game," Sheridan College coach Joel Davidson told the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star.

PRESEASON NOTICE


Kiera Hardy

Kiera Hardy, a senior on the Nebraska women's basketball team, earned preseason honorable-mention All-America honors from Street & Smith's, the publication recently announced.

Hardy, a 5-6 guard out of O'Hara High School in Kansas City, Mo., is a two-time first-team All-Big 12 selection. Nebraska's career leader with 196 made three-pointers in her first three seasons with the Huskers, Hardy led the Big 12 with 2.5 made three-pointers per game as a junior in 2005-06.

She also ranked fifth in the Big 12 in scoring with 17 points per game, and enters her senior season with 1,416 points. She has an opportunity to become just the third player in Nebraska history, joining former Wade Trophy winner Karen Jennings and Big Eight Player of the Year Maurtice Ivy, to earn first-team all-conference honors three times and score 2,000 points in their careers. ■

Familiar Voice Returns

In early September, Host Communications acquired the Husker Sports Network (formerly the Pinnacle Sports Network). And in late September, it announced the hiring of Kent Pavelka to be the play-by-play voice of Nebraska men's basketball. Pavelka replaces Randy Lee, who handled play-by-play duties the past four seasons. Pavelka did Husker basketball play-by-play from 1974 to 1996.

"We believe adding Kent to our team offers Husker fans one of the finest collection of broadcasters in collegiate sports broadcasting," Husker Sports Network vice president and general manager Kevin Moore said in announcing the change. "Jim Rose will remain the voice of Husker football."


Former Nebraska announcer Kent Pavelka will be back at the microphone for NU basketball.

Pavelka, who filled in on men's basketball broadcasts three times over the past two seasons, will work with basketball color analyst and former Cornhusker Matt Davison.

"There is something magical about listening to Nebraska sports on the radio," said Pavelka. "It's been a long time since my first Husker basketball broadcast back in 1974.

"I was excited and honored with the opportunity then, and I feel the same way today. I started my career doing Husker basketball, and that's how I get to end it."

Lee will continue to work for the Husker Sports Network, on football and baseball broadcasts. He is Rose's color analyst for baseball. "We truly appreciate everything Randy Lee has done for Nebraska basketball as he has been tremendous working with the team," Cornhusker executive associate athletic director Marc Boehm said in a release. "We know that as Host reorganizes its network lineup, Husker fans for all sports will benefit from the moves."

Pavelka's return led to speculation that he might also replace Rose on football broadcasts at some point. Moore dismissed such talk, telling the Lincoln Journal Star: "Jim's completely secure in his position as the football play-by-play announcer. When Kent and I got together to talk about that, that's the first thing I put on the table because I didn't want rumors." ■

Important Reminder

Safety Shanle says Huskers will learn from 'a great experience'



Mike BABCOCK

THE EMOTION OF THE MOMENT wasn't lost on Andrew Shanle. The senior free safety thought about it as he sat in the locker room following Nebraska's 39-32 overtime victory against Kansas.

More particularly, he thought about it as he looked in the faces of his teammates. "I really believe this is probably one of the greatest games I've been a part of, just the emotion, the momentum going back and forth, the overtime. This is definitely something I'll remember," he said.

"A lot of us, a lot of the guys on this team, whether you're a senior, freshman, junior or whatever, you're going to remember how hard this game was to win."

Never mind that Nebraska was expected to win handily.

Never mind that such expectations seemed justified after the Cornhuskers scored on the game's second play from scrimmage and went into the second quarter leading 17-0.

Shanle contributed to the early optimism by intercepting Adam Barmann passes on Kansas's first two possessions. The second interception and 19-yard return set up the second touchdown.

"I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, I think," Shanle said. "We had a great pass rush. The guy's going to throw it up when they're backed up. It's something we knew. It's something I totally would have exchanged for an extra point at the end of regulation."



Safety Andrew Shanle has three interceptions in the last two games.

Intercepting the passes — he now has three for the season — and getting folks excited was a lot of fun, he said. But never mind the individual accomplishments. What matters is the result.

"If it comes down to a close game like that, what good are they?" he said.

The game was supposed to be payback time for Nebraska. At Tuesday's news conference, one line of questioning related to the revenge factor following last season's 40-15 loss at Lawrence.

The Cornhuskers had last lost to Kansas in 1968.

They weren't focused on revenge, however. "I'm sure it's going to come up at one point in time in everyone's mind, but I think we just have to be mature," said senior defensive end Jay Moore. "That's last season. This is a whole new year and a whole new ball club. It's a new opponent and a new start to the season with the Big 12, and we just have to take it like the last four games."

New year, new ball club, new opponent; but as it turns out there were similarities. The loss at Kansas was a "wake-up call," middle linebacker Corey McKeon said on Tuesday.

The overtime victory could be viewed in much the same way, not necessarily as a wake-up call but rather as a reminder that if Nebraska doesn't operate at optimum efficiency, on both sides of the ball, with consistency, its chances of reaching the Big 12 championship game will be diminished.

The Cornhuskers can't look past an opponent, and they didn't do that with Kansas. But they also must be consistent within games, maintaining focus regardless of what happens, positive or negative.

The defensive problems weren't chronic, according to Shanle. "I think it just came down to shooting ourselves in the foot," he said. "They had some big plays, but unfortunately, some of those plays came as a result of not communicating, half the team running a blitz and the other half in base defense.

"So we'll get plenty of stuff fixed and corrected this week. I'm not going to take anything away from them (the Jayhawks), but we'll definitely get better from this experience."

Though hardly necessary given the Jayhawks' 574 yards of total offense and 32 points, defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove acknowledged the breakdown in communication.

But Shanle was confident that could be corrected. "We came in with this game plan kind of bombarded with things we needed to do during the week," he said.

"I think we'll be fine. As long as our defense is on the same page, we're fine."

In defense of the defense, it was on the field for a withering 94 snaps, not only because Kansas was making plays but also because Nebraska relied on quick strikes offensively. The Cornhuskers weren't able to run the ball consistently, which meant they weren't able to keep the defense off the field.

They were able to make enough big plays, and score enough points, to win, which was all that mattered in the locker room. "Next week, I think everyone's going to see how much this game meant to us and how much it pulled us together and what we're going to learn from it," said Shanle.

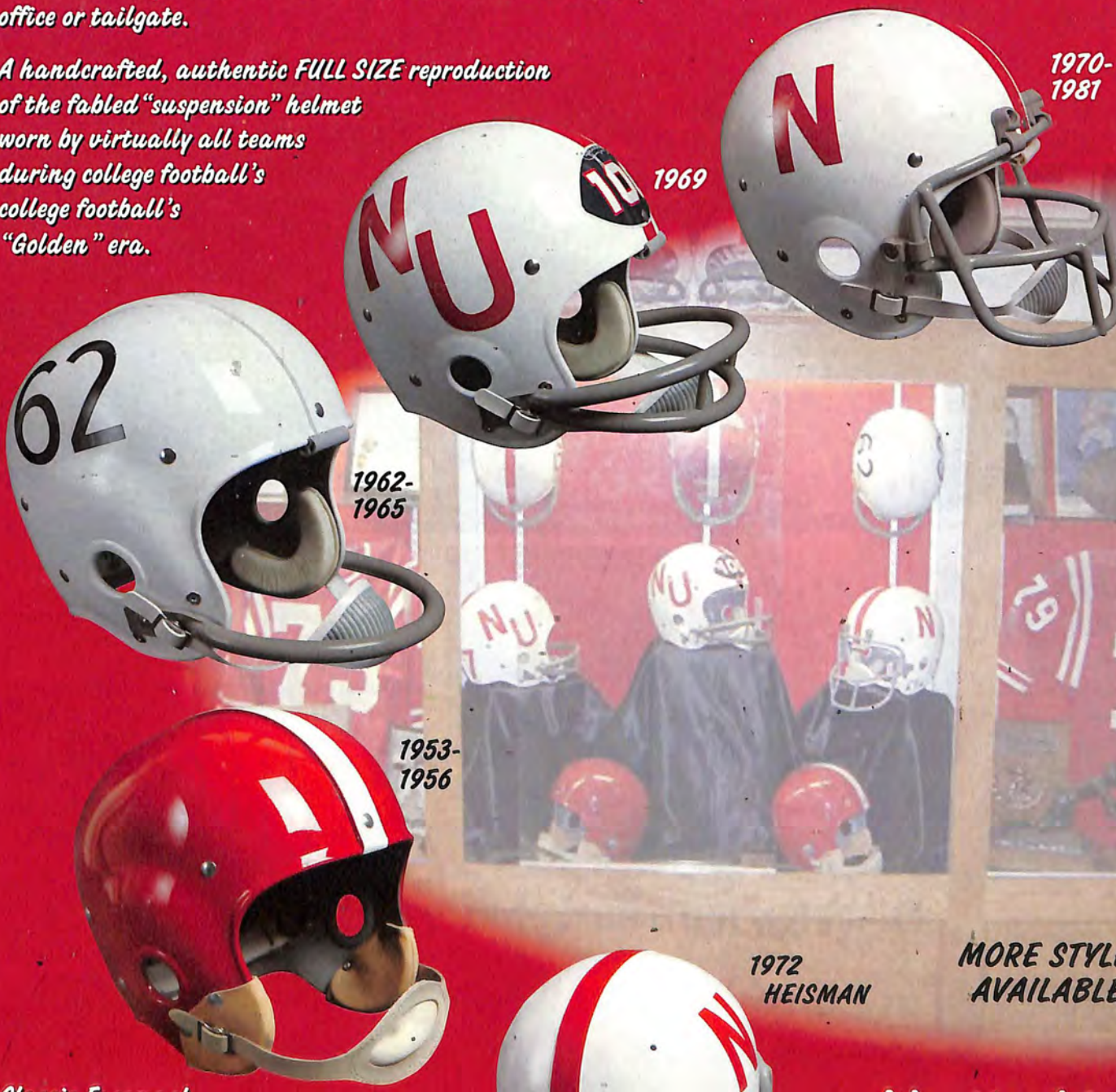
"I felt like we kind of put ourselves in the situation, but it was a great experience, a great bonding moment to come together as a defense, and an offense, and pull out a victory like this. I think only time will tell. But next week, we should show up a different team."

The same team that showed up for the first quarter against Kansas would be fine, too. ■

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